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Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention

Seventh and eighth periodic reports of States parties due in 2014

Nigeria*

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Foreword

Nigeria continues to demonstrate and reaffirm her commitment to the implementation of the principle and provisions of CEDAW, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), the Outcome of the twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly, the MDGs and other United Nations Resolutions that galvanized international efforts for the advancement of women.

The development of the Nigeria seventh and eight CEDAW report was highly participatory and inclusive with system wide efforts to generate inputs from government MDAs, State counterparts, CSOs and Development partners, while the Committee's Recommendations on the sixth Country Report was made a reference point.

Since the defence of the last report, the Nigerian Government has taken a variety of measures to address constitutional and legal stereotypes and discrimination against women (customary law inclusive). One of such critical steps is the review of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to conform to international best practices and standards. Also of significance are the steps being taken at the various levels of government to study and analyse the actual situation of women and children, for the purpose of establishing a baseline to guide benchmarking and target setting for performance measurement and monitoring purposes, especially in relation to the reforms and transformations embarked upon.

The Beijing Platform of Action (BPFA) alongside the provisions of CEDAW continues to inform policies, strategies and actions of government and stakeholders in the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls in the country. Although, the CEDAW has not been made a part of the Nigeria law as a whole, CEDAW continues to be implemented by the Government of Nigeria as it relates to different areas of concern.

Efforts have also been intensified to ensure that issues of Violence against Women are tackled in a comprehensive manner across the country. The spate of violence against women including domestic rape and sexual harassment continue to rise and women's bodies used as battlefields in conflict. Terrorism has become a global phenomenon and Nigeria is witnessing its own share and the abduction of the Chibok Girls remains a sad and unresolved incidence. Government continues to place premium on the recovery of the girls and the well-being of the affected families and communities.

Accordingly, a joint Military Mission comprising of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria are making a commendable progress in dislodging the terrorists. This is in addition to other Government palliatives measures such as:

(i) Launch of Victims N1.5 Billion Support Fund to meet the needs of the victims of insurgency;

(ii) Safe School Initiative — to provide security for over 10 million school children while learning to ensure safe, secure and conducive environment and protect security personnel;

(iii) Presidential Initiative — for infrastructural rehabilitation and reconstruction of amenities and infrastructures damaged by insurgents in the Northern Nigeria.

The Nigerian Government recognizes the pertinence of achieving gender equality and has over the years, rolled out policies to achieve this goal. Even as we celebrate the array of progress, it is not all glossy as we still confront many challenges. Salient impediments in achieving gender equality and women empowerment particularly during the reporting period, include the pervasive negative sociocultural beliefs and practices that shape choices and decision in different spheres of life, and pushing to obscurity some of the drafts/bills geared at redressing the challenges.

It is my hope that, the distinguished members of the CEDAW Committee of Experts will appreciate the progress made so far to impact on women and girls in Nigeria.

Acknowledgment

Nigeria appreciates the concluding comments and observations provided in the CEDAW Committee on Nigeria's sixth Periodic Report. This has served as a reference point in articulating the progress at this juncture and the review of persistent concerns of gender equality stakeholders and actors.

This report proceeded from where the sixth report stopped. It highlighted various measures taken and gave overview of progress made, constraints and challenges encountered in promoting the status of women in line with the provisions of the Convention from July 2006 to December 2014.

The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development commended the cordial partnership and collaboration extended by the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), state and local government entities, Development Partners, the academia, Grassroots women's associations and Civil Society Organizations in developing the seventh and eight country report.

Government also appreciates the contributions and efforts of the lead resource persons: Barrister Banke Akinrimisi and other resource persons: Assoc. Prof. Carol Arinze Umobi, Assoc. Prof. Suleiman D. Abdul, Dr. Lydia Umar, Mr. Z.O. Senbanjo and Mrs. Ada Agina-Ude and the technical assistants who supported the process from inception to conclusion with secretariat support by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, coordinated by Mrs. Oladipo C. Funke.

It is our hope that we shall continue to cooperate with each other to facilitate the realization of the principle of CEDAW as well as implement and monitor CEDAW and its related protocols in Nigeria.

Finally, the Ministry expresses its profound gratitude to the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Millennium Development Goals, the UN-Women, UNICEF, UNFPA and other Development Partners for their technical and financial support towards the production of this report.

(*Signed*) Ezekiel **Oyemomi**
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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 In fulfilment of its obligations as signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Government of Nigeria submitted its sixth Periodic report in July 2006 (covering the period 2003-2006). The report outlined the progress recorded in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. The Committee considered the sixth periodic report (CEDAW/C/NGA/6 and Annex 2) at its 836th and 837th meetings in New York on 3 July 2008. This seventh and eighth Country Periodic Report builds on previous efforts by the Nigerian Government, its agencies and partners at implementing the Convention and it covers the period July 2006-December 2014).

Nigeria's Profile

1.2 According to the 2006 population census, Nigeria has a population of approximately 140 million and a projected population of approximately 168.8 million for 2011 (National Population Commission, 2011).

1.3 Economic growth in Nigeria has been quite robust lately with rates among the highest in Sub Saharan Africa. Remarkable progress has been made to restore macro-economic stability in the country. The development context in Nigeria shows that the economy has experienced growth over time. Nigeria's rebased GDP shows that the Nigerian economy grew by as much as 7.41 per cent in real terms in the year 2013. According to the World Bank, the country's GDP growth rate as at 2012 was 6.5 per cent. Nigeria's per capita income has also increased by as much as over 60 per cent from $1,091 in 2009 to $1,700 in 2013. The Gross National Product (GNP) of about US$ 195 billion in 2007 rose to US$ 353.2 billion in 2009 while the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita from the 2010 estimate is US $1,324. Based on this growth trajectory, the projected real GDP rate for 2015 is 7.25 per cent and it is believed that this growth will continue to attract foreign investment into the country. This will, on the long run create better livelihood and opportunities for the economic empowerment of its citizens, half of whom are females.

Implementing Recommendations of the sixth Country Report

1.4 A key recommendation from the sixth Country report required Nigeria to disseminate the concluding observations to all relevant ministries, National and State Assemblies and the judiciary in order to ensure effective implementation. Hence, a National Stakeholders debriefing session was held in September 2008 with representatives of CSOs, MDAs, Development partners and State Ministries of Women Affairs where the Concluding Observations were deliberated. A presentation was also made to the National Assembly (NASS) during an advocacy visit to pursue the CEDAW domestication. Furthermore, it has become a reference material at different engagements with Stakeholders including a recent collaborative meeting with CIRRDOC an NGO based in Nigeria. A printed version in a booklet format has been widely disseminated.

1.6 The implementation of other Recommendations on the sixth Country Report are detailed in the subsisting sections under the relevant CEDAW Articles while a synopsis of implementation efforts is detailed in Annex 1.

Seventh and eighth Report Production Process

1.7 The development of the report was highly participatory and inclusive with system wide efforts to generate inputs from government MDAs, state counterparts, CSOs and development partners. The FMWASD set up a 20 member technical team comprising consultants, FMWASD research officers, data analysts from Federal Government agencies and technical assistants to coordinate the data gathering for the development of the report. The process commenced in July 2013 with the kick off meeting of consultants to brainstorm the modalities of gathering information/ data and effective strategy for engaging stakeholders. Subsequent actions embarked upon to ensure broad participation culminated in the following:

- Development of data collection tools that was circulated widely to government MDAs and their state counterparts.
- Stakeholders Consultative Meeting for civil society, government MDAs and Development Partners.
- The media engagement to publicize the report production process and request inputs from the general public.
- The posting by the FMWASD on its website in a questionnaire format, requesting contributions from the general public.
- Development and harmonization of data collection instruments.
- Desk review and organizational assessments via questionnaire at the national level (division by sector).
- Zonal information gathering exercise/ administration of questionnaire at the zonal level and field work.
- Development of zonal reports.
- Peer review and harmonization meeting held at national level to deliberate on and endorse the zero draft report.
- Zonal review and validation meetings were held at the six geo political zones to review, react to and input to the first draft report.
- Technical meeting to harmonize zonal inputs and produce second draft report.
- National stakeholder's review/final harmonization of report to produce a final draft was held on 2 September 2014 in Abuja.
- Editing of final draft.

Chapter 2

Articles 1, 2 and 9: Eliminating Discriminations against Women

2.1 Previous reports made it clear and manifest that Nigeria endorsed CEDAW and is willingly bound by its provisions. Against this background, the universal acceptance of the term discrimination did not constitute any problem towards its express acceptance and its application. The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, concretely enumerated provisions against discrimination on

grounds of sex, religion, ethnicity, age or circumstances of birth against any citizen. Chapter IV and more particularly in Section 42(1)(a)(b), (2) and (3).

Legislative Framework

2.2 Sequel to the setback that the 2005 CEDAW Bill suffered in 2007 with the fifth Legislative Assembly, The FMWASD continues to hold consultations with government officials, political leaders and members of the National Assembly, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders and has not relented in her efforts at re-strategizing towards re-introducing the Bill for passage before the expiration of the current Legislative Session.

2.3 The Nigerian parliament at different levels has continued to make laws to firmly curtail all offensive practices against women. The "Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill 2010: A Bill to Incorporate, Domesticate, And Enforce selected aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the National Policy on Women and other Matters Related Therewith", due for re-presentation to the National Assembly has been emulated by many state assemblies with emphasis on ensuring equal opportunity. Also, Related laws are being passed by different State assemblies (see table 2.1)

2.4 The HIV/AIDS anti-stigma bill has been passed by the legislature and was signed into law by the President as part of the celebration of the 2014 World HIV/AIDS Day.

2.5 The Nigerian Law Reform Commission (NLRC) has concluded work to mainstream gender equality and CEDAW provisions into the laws of Nigeria and the sections of different national laws requiring amendment have been articulated. The recommendations of the NLRC have been submitted to the Honourable Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice for presentation to the National Assembly. This omnibus legislative reform, includes laws identified in the study conducted by the Women Development Centre which seeks to repeal section 55 of the Penal Code of Northern Nigeria, section 55 of chapter 198 of the 1990 Labour Act of Nigeria and section 360 of the Criminal Code.

State Government Legislations, Policies and Frameworks:

Table 2.1
List of some CEDAW supportive Laws, Policies and Guidelines in Nigeria

Nature	*Title*
Law	1. Anambra State Malpractices against Widows and Widowers (Prohibition) Law No. 2005.
	2. Anambra State Gender and Equal Opportunities Law, 2007.
	3. Anambra State Women's Reproductive Rights, Anambra State, 2005.
	4. Anambra State Street Trading Restriction Law, 2004.
	5. Bauchi State Withdrawal of Girls from Schools for Marriage (Prohibition Law No 17 of 1985).
	Bayelsa State, The Female Genital (Prohibition) Law, 2000.
	Child Rights Laws passed in 14 more states plus the Federal Capital Territory after the last country's report (A total of 23 States out of 36 have passed the Child's Rights Law).
	8. Cross River State Law to Prohibit Girl-Child Marriages and Female Genital Circumcision or Genital Mutilation in, 2009.
	9. Cross Rivers State Law to Prohibit Domestic Violence against Women and Maltreatment. No. 10 of 2004.
	10. Ebonyi State Domestic Violence and Related Matters Law, Law No 003 of 2005.
	11. Edo State Inhuman Treatment of Widows (Prohibition) Law 2004.
	12. Edo State Law for Monitoring of Maternal Mortality in Edo State and Other Matters Connected Thereto, 2001.
	13. Edo State Law for Monitoring of Maternal Mortality and Other Matters Connected Thereto, 2001.
	14. Edo State Female Circumcision and Genital Mutilation (Prohibition) Law No.4 of 1999.
	15. Ekiti State Gender-Based Violence (Prohibition) Law, 2011.
	16. Enugu State HIV/AIDS Anti-Discrimination and Protection Law, 2007.
	17. Enugu State Prohibition of Infringement of a Widow's and Widower's Fundamental Rights Law No. 3 of 2001.
	18. Imo State Gender and Equal Opportunities Law No 7 of 2007.
	19. Imo State Widows (Protection) Law 2003.
	20. Lagos State Street Hawking (Prohibition) Law.
	21. Lagos State Protection Against Domestic Violence Law 2007.
	22. Lagos State Administration of Criminal Justice Law, 2011.

Nature	*Title*
	23. Lagos State Protection of People Living with HIV and Affected by AIDS Law 2007.
	24. Lagos State Law to Provide Rules on Criminal Conduct, Regulate Public Order and for Connected Purposes, 2011.
	25. Lagos State Same Sex (Prohibition) Law 2007.
	26. National Human Rights Commission Amendment Act 2010.
	27. National HIV/AIDS anti-stigma law, 2014.
	28. Cross River State law to Prohibit Girl-Child Marriages and Female Genital Circumcision or Genital Mutilation in Cross River State, 2000.
	29. Rivers State Reproductive Health Service Law No. 3 of 2003.
	30. Rivers State Schools Rights (Parents, Children and Teachers) Law No.2, 2005.
	31. Rivers State Dehumanizing and Harmful Traditional Practices Law of 2003.
	32. Rivers State Abolition of Female Circumcision Law, No. 2 of 2001.
	Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act 2003, as amended in 2004.
	34. Universal Basic Education and other Related Matters Act (2004).
Policy	1. National Policy on HIV-AIDS (2003).
	2. National Workplace Policy on HIV/AIDS, April 2005.
	3. National Gender Policy, 2006.
	4. National Policy on HIV/AIDS-Federal Ministry of Health, (2009).
	5. National Reproductive Health Policy and Strategy — Federal Ministry of Health, (2001).
	6. National Policy and Plan of Action on Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation in Nigeria (2002).
	7. National Policy on Maternal and Child Health — Federal Ministry of Health, (1994).
	8. Gender policy for the Nigeria Police Force, September 2012 (awaiting Strategic Framework for Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation).
	9. Jigawa State Gender Policy, A Holistic Approach Towards Women Development, May 2013.
	10. Ekiti State Gender Policy, 2011.
	11. National Child Policy 2007 and its Strategic Plan of Action/Implementation Framework.
	12. National Policy on protection and assistance to victims of trafficking, 2008.

Nature	*Title*
Implementation Frameworks/ Guidelines	1. HIV/AIDS National Strategic Framework for Action, 2005-2009.
	2. National Strategic Plan for Reproductive Health Commodity Security (2003).
	3. National Guidelines on micronutrients Deficiencies control in Nigeria (2005).
	4. National Guidelines and Strategies for Malaria Prevention Control During Pregnancy (2005).
	5. National Reproductive Health and Strategic Framework and Plan 2002-2006.
	6. National Strategic Framework and Plan for VVF Eradication in Nigeria (2005-2010).
	7. National Strategic Framework on the Health and Development of Adolescent and Young People in Nigeria —Federal Ministry of Health (2007-2011).
	8. National Health Strategic Development Plan 2010-2015
	9. National Gender Policy Strategic Implementation Framework and Plan, 2008.
	10. Jigawa State Gender Policy Action Plan.

Progress on Nationality and Women in Nigeria

2.7 The major issue with nationality and women in Nigeria is with section 26(2) of the 1999 Constitution which stipulates who a citizen of Nigeria is and how citizenship may be acquired by marriage and naturalization. The section does not allow a Nigerian woman married to a foreigner to transmit citizenship to her spouse by reason of marriage.

2.8 The National Assembly constituted a constitution review committee to anchor the process of review of the 1999 Constitution. A National Conference was also held in 2014 and one of the assignments of the conference was to review issues relating to the peaceful coexistence of the citizens of Nigeria irrespective of age, sex, ethnicity etc. State. Memorandum on issues of concern to women, which includes the gap that this section of the law creates was submitted to these two bodies and the call for review of section 26(2) of the constitution is one of the priority issues listed.

Monitoring and Administrative Measures

2.9 The administrative arm of the Nigerian Government is also deploying substantial efforts within its limited resources to rid the country of discrimination on the ground of sex. This is evidenced by the plethora of policies and programmes employed to drive this obligation. The Federal Ministry of Justice has staunchly taken the lead in this project, while other relevant agencies like the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Law Reform Commission (LRC), Legal Aid Council, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS), National Agency for the

Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), FMWASD, the Code of Conduct Bureau, and the Federal Character Commission have joined forces to see the task is well handled.

Advocacy and Knowledge Creation

2.10 The Minister for Women Affairs paid advocacy visits to key MDAs at national level to raise awareness on the provisions of CEDAW and to advocate commitment to the promotion of gender equality and the prohibition of discrimination to Chief Justice of Nigeria, the Attorney-General, IGP, INEC Chairman among others. Similar visits were also made to the State Governors, State Assemblies, Traditional leaders, CSOs) by the team during the reporting period.

2.11 The Nigerian Police Force has developed and adopted a National Human Rights Training Curriculum. The development of the gender component of the manual was done with the support of UN-Women and the manual used in all Police training colleges across the country.

Judicial Measures

2.12 The role of judges in advancing the human rights of women is systematically shared into two parts — namely the ideologies of judicial restraints and judicial activism (Nweze, 2003). Very recently, judicial activism has been applied in a number of decided cases on gender issues in order to depart drastically from obnoxious customs that obstructs women's progress and full development. The following landmark decisions is a boost to the legal environment for the protection of the rights of women and girls in Nigeria:

i. **Asika v Atuanya (2008) 17 NWLR (pt 1117) p.286**: In this case, the Court of Appeal held that any custom that is repugnant to natural justice, equity and good conscience must be abolished, and should not be allowed to rear its ugly head. A custom that discriminates against women by denying them the right to own land in their father's estate was held to be repugnant to natural justice, equity and good conscience. The Court also held further that the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria re-emphasized the rights of every citizen of Nigeria to acquire and own immovable property anywhere in Nigeria, as such women should not be deprived of ownership and the right of inheritance of immovable property.

ii. **Lois Chituru Ukeje vs Mrs Gladys Ada Ukeje** April 2014, the Supreme Court of Nigeria declared in this case that no matter the circumstances of the birth of a female child, such a child is entitled to an inheritance from her late father's estate. Consequently, the Igbo customary law which disentitles a female child from partaking in the sharing of his deceased fathers estate is a breach of section 42(1)(2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, a fundamental Rights provision guaranteed to every Nigerian. This said discriminatory law is void as it conflicts with section 42(1)(2) of the said Constitution.

iii. **Onyibor Anekwe and Anor v. Mrs. Maria Nweke (2014) LPELR 22697 (SC)**, the Supreme Court held that Nigerian customs which disinherit women are repugnant to natural justice, equity and good conscience and should therefore not be allowed to stand. The court therefore declared as

repulsive, the custom of the Awka people in Anambra State which allows married women to be disinherited upon the death of their husband because they did not have a male child for the late husband.

iv. Dr. Priye Iyalla-Amadi Vs Director-General of the Nigeria Immigration Service and Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) in which the Federal High Court in Port Harcourt held that it was discriminatory and a violation of Section 42 (1)(a) of the 1999 Constitution and Article 18(3) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples's Rights for the immigration to insist on a written consent of the husband before an international passport can be issued for the wife (woman) when no similar condition is applicable to the men.

v. The provision of the Police Act, which prohibits a female officer from marrying a man of her choice without the permission of the Commissioner of Police in the command where she is serving, has been declared illegal and unconstitutional by a Federal High Court. The judge held that Regulation 124 was illegal, null and void due to its inconsistency with Section 42 of the 1999 Constitution and proceeded to annul it pursuant to Section 1(3) of the Constitution.

2.13 With these judgments many more women will be bold to come forward and challenge situations of injustice and because it is a decision of the Supreme Court, no court can legally give a contrary judgment.

Attributions of Progress Recorded

2.14 Democracy has continued to yield results including the increase in the enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression, human dignity, fair hearing, freedom of movement freedom from discrimination and all other associated rights. Governmental policies, programmes and activities have continued to witness a boost typified in extended educational, legal and legislative advocacies/outreaches. These were accompanied by trainings, workshops and seminars aimed at broadening and expanding rights horizon in issues of gender mainstreaming.

2.15 Non-governmental organizations on their part have redoubled their efforts as monitors of the government and whistle blowers when they notice improper conduct from government angles. This has resulted in greater collaborations and networking between the NGOs and the Judiciary, Legislature and other key stakeholders including other civil society groups. Attempts are directed at conscious strategic litigation and alternative dispute resolution which offer a more permanent equitable arrangement.

Challenges

2.16 Low literacy rate in Nigeria has consistently slowed the pace of progress in promoting the rights of women and impacted the enjoyment of rights negatively.

2.17 Patriarchy also constitutes a very big hurdle in this pursuit and is reflected in the slow pace of legislative reforms with respect to laws affecting women, poor enforcement mechanism, trivialization of corresponding laws due to lack of understanding especially among the legislators.

2.18 Ingrained customary practices, acceptance of discrimination as a measure of divide and rule, usage of violence to maintain patriarchal hegemony, the influence

of religion as the opium of the masses, illiteracy, poverty and selective acceptance to conform to international bench marks constitute great hurdles to the achievement of gender equality.

2.19 Poor budgetary allocation.

Chapter 3

Article 3: Effective Development and Advancement Measures

Building an Enabling Environment for Human Rights Promotion: Legislative and Legal Reforms

3.1 The Government is taking a variety of steps to address constitutional and legal stereotypes against women (customary law inclusive). One of such critical steps is the review of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, to conform to international best practices. Also of significance are the steps being taken at the various levels of government to study and analyse the actual situation of women and children, for the purpose of establishing a baseline to guide benchmarking and target setting for performance measurement and monitoring purposes, especially in relation to the reforms embarked upon.

3.2 As mentioned in paragraphs 2.3-2.12 above, the Nigerian Government is also embarking on gender sensitive legislative reform processes through:

Abrogation of legislation which violates natural law, equity and good conscience;

- Effecting legislative changes in gender offensive legal principles contained in judicial decisions;
- Amending a wide range of gender-offensive legislations;
- Proactive Court decisions in support of women's rights as enumerated in Paragraphs 2.21-2.23 above.

Promoting Women and Development

3.3 With women constituting about half of Nigeria's population, there is overwhelming evidence that they are a formidable productive force and a repertoire of incredible human resource that is critical for attaining for national economic development. Therefore, the role of this vast human capital in the socio-economic advancement of the country cannot be over-emphasized. In recognition of this reality, Government is, among others, taking increasing steps to:

i. Make more and more major policy interventions targeted at improving the social status of women;

ii. Improve women's economic base by making special bank loans available — through the Central Bank of Nigeria, Nigeria Infrastructure Bank, Bank of Agriculture and the Bank of Industry;

iii. Ensure massive increase in girl-child education;

iv. Discourage early girl-child marriages.

Enhancing Women's Economic Empowerment

3.4 Government has embarked on numerous programmes to boost women's economic empowerment. Some of these are the WOFEE and BUDFOW which are still making giant strides all over Nigeria. The FMWASD, in partnership with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Bank of Industry (BOI) have provided financial empowerment to women through their various initiatives, such as Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Fund as well as the Agricultural Financing Scheme. So far over 5000 women have benefitted nationally and it is still work in progress.

3.5 Government has also put in place many other gender-specific economy-boosting Programmes including:

3.6 Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE P); YOU-Win; G-Win; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/SMEDAN technical and entrepreneurial skills programme among others.

Political Participation

3.7 Since 2007, there have been increased efforts to ensure increased women's representation and participation in both elective and appointive positions in the country through:

i. Increased emphasis on implementing the provisions of the National Gender Policy, in all spheres of government and non-governmental activities;

ii. Insistence on the 35 per cent Affirmative Action target of the National Gender Policy in all appointive and elected offices.

iii. Massive sensitization of the citizenry on the negative impact of harmful traditional practices hampering women from political participation.

iv. Deliberate schemes and programmes aimed at the economic empowerment.

3.8 Additionally, Political Parties are advancing policies aimed at encouraging women into political decision making positions at the highest levels. Most political Parties now allow women seeking political offices to obtain nomination forms free of charge whereas their male counterparts pay heavily to obtain same. The FMWASD with UN-Women and other development partners put in place a Trust Fund to assist female politicians bidding for elective offices.

3.9 The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as a strategic institution developed its in-house gender policy to positively influence the enabling legislative environment for electoral processes. It will also facilitate the adoption of relevant institutional measures and mechanisms related to the achievement of impartiality and equality and contribute to bridging gender gaps in political representation at all electoral related levels, especially in elected and appointive positions.

Working towards a more gender responsive Nigerian Police Force

3.10 The Nigeria Police Force has developed a context specific **Gender Policy for the Nigerian Police.** This was demand-driven response to the outcomes of a workshop on improving gender sensitive policy response to the issues of GBV

organized in November 2009. Also, the Nigeria Police Force recently adopted a new Human Rights Training Manual which has gender equality mainstreamed and was presented to the Inspector General of Police in February 2014 — for use in all Police Training Schools and Colleges, nationwide.

Targeted Efforts on Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

3.11 Over the years, Government has intensified efforts towards the prohibition of female genital mutilation with a view to eliminate this harmful practice. Awareness raising activities including campaigns have been carried out by key stakeholders. Although at present there is no legislation at the federal level prohibiting FGM, but there are extant laws in 26 states (see table 2.1 above). In effect, over two-third of the country have laws in place to protect the rights of women against any form of violence.

Confronting Gender Based Violence (GBV)

3.12 The 2008 NDHS revealed that 28 per cent of Nigerian women aged 25-29 have experienced one form of physical violence since age 15 with 15 per cent of those women experiencing physical violence within 12 months preceding the survey. The level of exposure to risk of violence varied based on Geographical location, educational attainment, marital status and other indices.

3.13 Geographical location also have implications for women's experience of violence with women in urban areas reporting significantly higher prevalence of violence (30 per cent) than women in the rural areas (26 per cent). Women in the south-south zone of the country experienced highest rate of violence across the country, at 52.10 per cent followed by north central, south-east and south-west at 31 per cent, 29.6 per cent and 28.9 per cent respectively. The north-east and north-west were lowest at 19.7 per cent and 13.1 per cent respectively. (Fig. 3.1 below) NDHS 2008.

Figure 3.1
Women's experience of sexual violence by zone

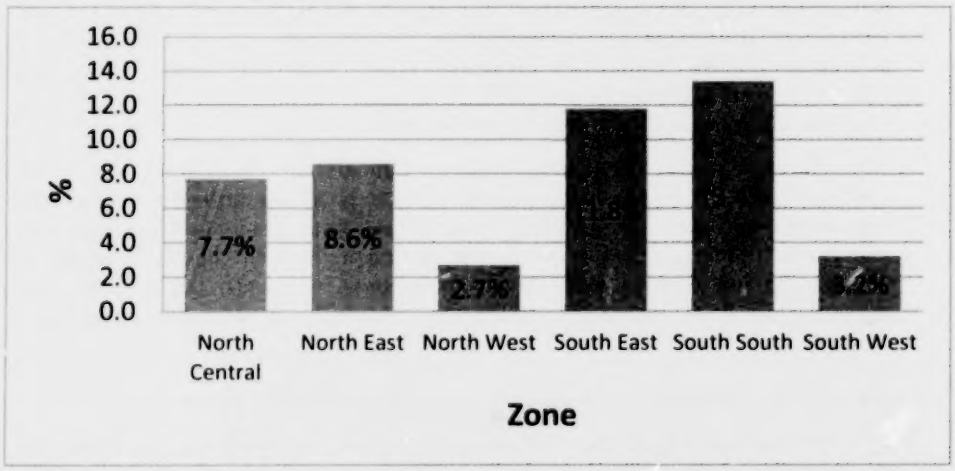
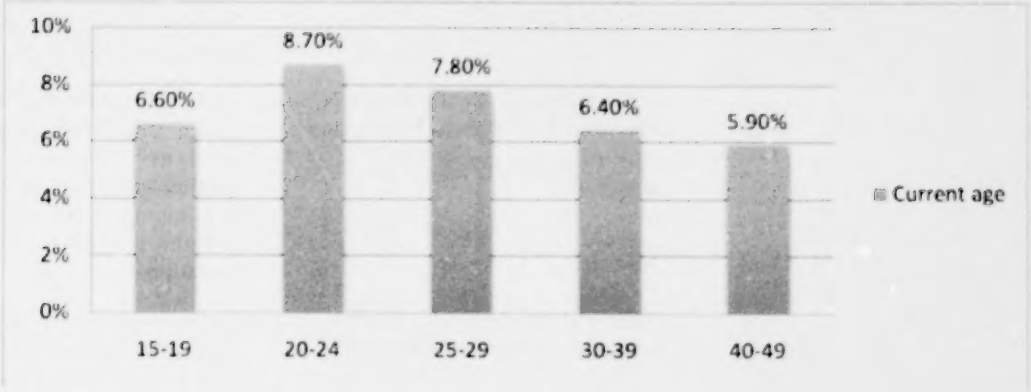


Figure 3.2
Women's experience of sexual violence by current age



Sexual violence knows no boundaries, as women in both urban and rural areas in Nigeria experience sexual violence alike, 6.9 per cent and 7.1 per cent respectively.

Administrative and Legal Measures

3.14 In this regard, the legal framework is constantly being strengthened to protect women and girls. The Violence Against Persons (Prohibition Bill (VAPP) was passed by the House of Representatives on 14 March 2013 and has since been transmitted to the Senate for concurrence. Other laws and policies that cover gender based violence are as found in Table 2.1 above.

Response Measures for victims of violence

(a) Rehabilitation Services/Provision of Shelters

3.15 There has been a remarkable increase in the number of shelters available to victims of violence since the last reporting period. Table 3.1 below presents some of such shelters currently operational in the country.

Table 3.1
Shelters and their Location

Location	*Name of Organization*	*Services Rendered*
Lagos	Project Alert — Sophia's Place (NGO)	Provides a safe, quiet and serene space for women (and their children) seeking time and space away from their abusive environments
	Lagos state Government	156-bed shelter for women and children victims of GBV
	Rehoboth Homes — Women of Global Impact of The Redeemed Evangelical Mission (TREM)	Houses stranded ladies who have been trafficked, and who are deported or repatriated into the country

Location	*Name of Organization*	*Services Rendered*
	Genesis House by Freedom Foundation	Helps sexually abused ladies and former commercial sex workers within the ages of 13 and 25 years
	Rehabilitation Centre (Peace Villa) by The Real Woman Foundation	Rehabilitation centre for girls and young women who have been victims of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. Runs rehabilitation programme, which runs for six months, it includes counselling and vocational training
	Hope House by Pastor Bimbo Odukoya Foundation (PBOF)	Provides shelter for pregnant single girls aged between 13 and 23 years. The girls are sometimes victims of abuse
	Media Concern Initiatives (MEDIACON)	Provides shelter for sexually abused young people
	Echoes of Mercy and Hope Foundation	Provides shelter for sexually abused and street girls between the ages of 12 and 17 years.
(Abuja, Lagos, Benin, Uyo, Enugu, Kano, Sokoto and Maiduguri)	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP	Eight (8) shelters across the country mainly for rescued victims of trafficking
Enugu	Women's Aid Collective (WACOL)	Provides temporary accommodation to female victims of battery and violence
Ekiti	Ekiti State Ministry of Women Affairs — Social Intervention Home	Transition/temporary shelter for abused/displaced women
Abuja	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development	Temporary shelter for abused women and victims of domestic violence
Cross River	Destiny Care Centre	Home for abandoned children and those who suffer sexual abuse
	Mothers Against Child Abandonment	Home for pregnant teenagers
Kaduna State	UNFPA/KD State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development	Shelter construction is at finishing stage.
Osun State	Osun State Ministry of Women Affairs	Temporary Shelter for battered women

(b) Hotlines and Helpline Services

3.16 In order to enhance response to incidences of Gender Based Violence (GBV) several government agencies and civil society organizations have hotlines/helplines on GBV albeit focusing on different and specific aspects of GBV. Most of the hotlines run 24 hours some of which are toll free.

(c) Counselling and Medical Services

3.17 Several organizations offer different types of counselling services tailored to their areas of expertise for people who have experienced or are experiencing physical or sexual violence. Some of such counselling service providers are Lagos state Ministry of Youth, Sports and Social Development, Project Alert, GPI, WACOL, CIRDDOC, Mirabel Centre, Hello Lagos, MEDIACON, OPD etc. Majority of the services provided are legal counselling, group and individual counselling, and health related counselling. Some organizations offer victims Psycho-social and Trauma counselling/management. The Mirabel Centre also provides sexual assault trauma counselling services.

(d) Training/Capacity building (*Police, Health Care Workers, Counsellors and Others*)

3.18 Targeted training of professionals who interact with those impacted by GBV has been a critical aspect of efforts being taken to address the problem of GBV and HIV. Such training covers knowledge and information sharing, sensitization as a first step in changing norms, attitudes, and behaviour, as well as strengthening the technical skills needed to implement a range of services and support to victims of GBV.

(e) Awareness raising, Mobilization and Advocacy

3.19 The Government, its partners and other stakeholders routinely carry out enlightenment campaigns during the annual 16 days of activism on violence against women to raise awareness on issues of GBV across the country. Various groups have held awareness campaigns in tertiary and secondary institutions to raise awareness on both GBV and VAW among youths in formal educational institutions. Others have media campaigns — television and radio programmes.

(f) Mobilizing men in the fight against GBV

3.20 The involvement of men is crucial to achieving the desired change in gender based norms which fuels the incidence of GBV. To this end, various organizations are mobilizing men and boys to reduce GBV and promote gender equity and equality. The Ebonyi Men's Resource Centre (EB-MRC) which is hosted by Daughters of Virtue and Empowerment Initiative (DOVENET) has a network of men, allied with women, acting as role models in violence prevention and positive masculinity. The UNFPA carries out a yearly dialogue with young boys and traditional rulers on their role in eliminating gender based violence while the UN-Women has a network of male champions on VAW.

Dealing with Abductions and Internally Displaced

3.21 There is no doubt that crisis situation in Nigeria especially in the Northern parts of the country has escalated and have led to an increase in the number of

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) across the country. Nigeria is said to have over 3,000,000 IDPs with over 20 camps across the affected states.

In response to this, Government set up some interventions such as:

- Presidential Initiatives to support infrastructural development and reconstruction in the crisis affected areas.
- Save Schools Initiatives Project initiated by United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education, Mr. Gordon Brown and a coalition of Nigerian Business leaders in May 2014 to provide additional security and security personnel for pupils and students including provision of school facilities to ensure safe, secure and conducive environment for learning.
- The Victims Support Fund which was able to raise N100 Billion ($625m USD) in support of the care and rehabilitation for the victims of Boko Haram, who have been predominantly women and children.

Chapter 4

Article 4: Accelerating Equality between Men and Women

Introduction

4.1 The Nigerian Government has made and continues to make laws and policies striving to consistently put in place necessary mechanisms for enforcing such laws and implementing its policies in order to ensure that it remains on course towards bridging gender gaps in different sectors. The FMWASD, NCWD, CSOs and other development partners have also worked and collaborated on various interventions to ensure gender equality at the 3 levels of government and in all sectors.

Administrative and Policy Measures on Gender Mainstreaming

4.2 The Beijing Platform of Action (BPFA) alongside the provisions of the CEDAW continues to inform policies, strategies and actions of government and stakeholders in the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls in the country. Although, CEDAW has not been made wholly a part of the Nigerian legal system it has continued to influence policy implementation by the Government as it relates to different areas of concern. Many laws have been passed over the years that support different principles of CEDAW.

Enhancing Family Life

4.3 The Nigerian Law Reform Commission has undertaken extensive reforms of the Nigerian Family Law, Law Relating to Rape and Other Sexual Offences as well as Laws on Marriage. The reforms specifically address issues pertaining to Section 55 of Chapter 198 of the 1990 Constitution, and section 360 of the Nigerian Criminal Code. Issues covered include:

(a) Testifying against a Spouse: Previously only women married by ordinance were protected from testifying in court against their husbands in criminal matters but by the reform, women married under customary and Islamic Laws are now covered.

(b) Divorce under customary and Islamic laws will now follow due process and besides return of dowry, divorce paper will now be obtainable.

(c) Customary and Islamic marriages can now be registered.

(d) Pregnant women no longer share cells with other detainees or prison inmates.

(e) Nursing mothers relieved of sharing cells with other detainees or prisoners.

Strengthening Political and Public life

4.4 To better bridge the yawning gap in women and men's participation in politics, Government adopted some measures and realized some gains there from. Some of such measures are as below:

Women's Political Empowerment Offices

4.5 Establishment of women's political empowerment offices in the six geo-political zones of the nation since 2007. These offices are administered and coordinated by non-partisan organizations to ensure objectivity and efficiency. The establishment of the empowerment offices was borne out of a need to enhance the political participation of women in public life. The offices have served as training and mentoring ground as well as a rallying point for women.

Nigerian Women's Trust Fund

4.6 Before the 2007 and 2011 general elections, the Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development, NGOs and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working on women's political advancement organized a range of activities with financial and technical support of Development Partners including UN-Women, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at the national, state and local government levels. The target was to improve and shift the electoral performance of Nigerian women from being voters to also being contestants and political office holders. Measures put in place include, capacity building and trainings for female aspirants, advocacy to traditional, religious leaders to support female candidates, and awareness creation among political party leadership on the need to support Affirmative Action in fielding candidates.

4.7 The issues of electoral violence and lack of finance that have precluded women from actively participating in active politics became matters of serious concern that resulted in the adoption of specific measures for overcoming such obstacles. For example, in 2011, the FMWASD launched the Nigerian Women's Trust Fund with the sum of N100 Million ($600,000) to assist women that are interested in active politics. The focus of the fund is to make grants to female aspirants towards financing specific campaign activities, enabling leadership skills development, conducting research, generating information and carrying out gender equality related advocacy activities. The Trust Fund created room for more women's participation in the 2011 general elections and although majority of them did not win the elections, many took the bold step of contesting. Table 4.1 below shows women elected into political office in 2007 and 2011.

Table 4.1
Women elected to political office by zone, 2007-2011

	Deputy Governor		*Senate*		*House of Representatives*		*House of Assembly*	
Zone	*2011*	*2007*	*2011*	*2007*	*2011*	*2007*	*2011*	*2007*
North Central	0	1	1	3	2	4	15	9
North East	0	0	1	1	4	1	4	2
North West	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	2
South East	0	2	2	3	6	7	21	17
South South	0	0	1	1	4	3	12	15
South West	4	3	1	1	8	8	15	9

Source: *Ezeilo, 2010.*

4.8 Table 4.1 above shows that in some areas e.g. State Houses of Assemblies, more women won elections in 2011 than in 2007. Furthermore, Government also made conscious efforts at ensuring that at the national level, women have a good representation in appointive positions. Table 4.2 below shows progress in the appointment of females into ministerial positions.

Table 4.2
Women Representation by Appointment at Federal Level under these consecutive Administrations

S N	*Number of Positions*	*Olusegun Obasanjo Administration*	*Musa Yar'Adua Administration*	*Goodluck Jonathan Administration*
Cabinet Ministers	42	7	7	13
% Representation	100	16.66	16.66	30.95
Permanent Secretaries	43	8	9	11
% Representation	100	18.60	20.93	25.58

Source: *Ochanja et al (2013).*

Promoting Women's Leadership

4.9 Although there is room for improvement, efforts are currently available for the enhancement of women's leadership skills. For instance, there exist in many states of the federation Forum of Women in Leadership and Forum of Spouses of Officials of Government. Such forums are designed to build the capacity of women in leadership positions and to improve social interaction and networking among them. The Forum of Spouses is also aimed at ensuring that the wives of key government officials are adequately motivated, taught and encouraged to be involved and active in life-improving activities within their localities. For instance the one in Ekiti State is called Forum of Spouses of Ekiti State Officials (FOSESO).

Engaging Women in Peace Building

4.10 In November 2011, the Government supported and hosted the world fourth Cities in Transition Conference. An entire section of the programme was dedicated

to the role of women in peace and security. Hitherto, issues of peace, conflict resolution and security were viewed strictly as fields reserved for men. The commitment of the Government in conflict prevention and management has shown its resolve for inclusive policy in the promotion of peace and the re-establishment of a united nation.

Expanding Employment Opportunities:

Military Enlistment of Women

4.11 To boost Women's employment in the Military, a landmark achievement was made on 14 February 2010 when Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA) commenced enlistment of female regular combatant officers with 20 females enrolled as pioneers. By 2013, the number increased to about 50 (Daily Trust, 2/2/2013). In recent years, women have also been deployed on peace keeping missions within and outside Nigeria.

Advancing Women in Judiciary

4.12 With recent developments in the Nigerian Judiciary, the acceptance of women's leadership in strategic positions is anticipated to have positive ripple effects in other sectors. In 2012 a woman, Honourable Aloma Mouktar emerged as the first female Chief Justice and head of the Nigerian Judiciary and another female Judge — Justice Zainab Bulkachuwa emerged President of the Court of Appeal in 2014. So far about five States have appointed women as their Chief Judge and/or Attorney General. Such States are: Lagos, Ogun (CJ and AG are women), Oyo (the state also has female Customary Court Judge).

Women in the Private Sector

4.13 There has been an increase in the number of women in the private sector. Women run about 20 per cent of enterprises in the formal sector (World Bank, 2009:92) and they make up 37 per cent of the total work force in the garment industry. The rate of female entrepreneurship in the micro sector is increasing as a result of increased skill acquisition and micro-loans to women. A report on the "2010 Access to Financial Services in Nigeria" indicates that majority of the 43 per cent of women cited as economically inactive make their living through private businesses.

Conclusion

4.14 The Nigerian Government recognizes the pertinence of achieving gender equality and has over the years, rolled out policies to achieve this goal. Salient impediments in achieving gender equality and particularly during the reporting period, include the pervasive negative socio cultural beliefs and practices that shape choices and decision in different spheres of life, and pushing to obscurity some of the draft bills geared at redressing the challenges.

Chapter 5

Article 5: Gender Roles and Stereotypes

Key Efforts to Eliminate Gender Roles and Stereotypes for Girls and Women

5.1 Awareness creation on gender issues has been one of the major measures put in place to address gender stereotypes that impede the progress of women and girls in the country. Much of the gains recorded since 2006 can be attributed to the ensuing measures highlighted below:

5.2 The National Coalition on Affirmative Action has promoted and ensured the enactment of Gender and Equal Opportunity Law (derived from CEDAW) in Ekiti, Imo and Kogi States. This law among others provides that every "*organ, agency of government, public or private institution, community, educational institutions modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices, customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes, or stereotyped roles for men and women.*"[1] (Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill, 2010). The Law protects women's inheritance rights, land ownership rights, political participation and economic opportunities. Meanwhile advocacy and lobbying has been intensified to have the Bill passed at the National Assembly.

5.3 Barriers are constantly being dismantled thereby allowing women and girls to participate in some vocational jobs that have for a long time been considered the preserve of men and boys. For instance girls are now being trained in vulcanizing (vehicle tire repair), wheel alignment. Through the project women are trained to drive taxies and empowered with vehicles to run transport businesses.

5.4 Government and NGOs are increasingly working in collaboration with Faith Based Organizations and traditional authorities to conduct awareness programmes. These programmes have ensured the gradual but steady dislodgement of the culture of male superiority. The increasing numbers of female clerics in both Christian and Muslim denominations attest to this.

5.5 Furthermore in Igbo land, there is a rise in female chiefs with not less than 10 women in Iyom category. The Iyom Chieftaincy is the highest traditional title for a woman among a large segment of Igbo communities. This titled leadership position almost went extinct but its resurgence in the past five years attests to the progress in the march to gender aware attitudes. Women are now represented in the "Eze" Traditional Rulers' Cabinets in the South Eastern states.

5.6 Several governments in the South East are now involved in the yearly Women's Mass Home Coming otherwise known as August Meeting and now use it as a platform for creating awareness at the rural level on the need to abrogate harmful traditional practices.

5.7 The National Gender Policy and the National Policy on Education have prioritized Science and Technical Education for girls as a path to decent jobs for them.

5.8 To reverse stereotype, Government at various levels and NGOs have taken the following actions to reverse this trend. For example, Kano state initiatives in this regard are as follows:

- Establishment of New Day Junior Secondary Schools for girls in each of the 44 LGAs
- Provision of international scholarship awards to 100 women to study Medicine and qualify as Gynaecologists and other medical related fields
- 100 females undergoing training as Pharmacist
- 100 females undergoing training as Nursing Tutors
- 100 females undergoing training as Commercial Pilot and at the moment 30 had graduated
- Female Teachers Scholarship Scheme (FTSS).

5.9 Other states' initiatives include mobilization of religious and traditional rulers and communities in (Cross River, Zamfara and Yobe States); involvement of women through mothers' association (Kebbi State); Networking and partnership by various NGOs, Civil Society Action Committee on Education For All (CSACEFA) and formation of Girls Education Advocacy Groups known as EGBENN Project.

Awareness Creation and public sensitization

5.10 To create the necessary awareness and sensitization, the Government has been supporting the fast growing film industry in Nigeria. Financial support and other incentives ensure that the film industry serves as a medium for promoting positive perceptions of women and girl with the ultimate aim of eliminating gender stereotypes.

Growing Girls and Women in Nigeria (G-Win)

5.11 GWIN (Growing Girls and Women in Nigeria) is an innovative programme that links government budgeting processes to specific targets to improve the lives of disadvantaged girls and women in Nigeria. The pilot phase is implemented by five ministries: Agriculture, Communications Technology, Health, Water Resources, and Works. The Ministry of Women Affairs monitors and evaluates the implementation.

Table 5.1
Key Implementation Results

S N	*Ministry*	*Focus*	*Target*	*Achieved*
1	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1. Provide training, starter packs and mentoring to young women farmers	500 women	3,500
		2. Register women on the E-Wallet agro database through which women receive subsidized inputs	2 Million women	2.4 million
		3. Provide, in collaboration with Ministry of Communication Technology, women with agricultural information through text/voice messages	500,000 women	100,000 identified

S/N	Ministry	Focus	Target	Achieved
2	Federal Ministry of Communication Technology	Girls and women access/receive reliable and relevant daily information content via any mobile device.	2 million	nil
		Secondary school girls gain access to ICT tools and mentorship to prepare them for career in the ICT sector	1,200	1,850
		Young girls provided with 3-day general ICT training, the best 200 receive higher level training certification by Huawai and 200 certified provided job placement	1,000	400
		IT Club Managers gain access to ICT tools for effective IT club management and mentoring of beneficiaries of Girls ICT Club	48	28
3	Federal Ministry of Health	Treat young women with VVF, provide counselling and rehabilitation		
		Build management skills of health workers	Nil	128
		Train Peer-to-peer health educators	4,600 girls	4,497
		Train teachers and FBOs/CBOs as P2P coordinators	Nil	600 teachers 120 FBOs
		Train Out-of-school young people as peer Educators	Nil	1,200 youths
4	Federal Ministry of Water Resources	Train Women to set up and operate water management committees	240 women (12 States)	76 women
		Train rural women and girls on leadership skills and conflict resolution	240 women (12 States)	80 (4 states)
		Train rural women and girls on water kiosk management	240 women (12 states)	80 women
		Train women in procurement processes	55 women	50 women
		Establish WASHCOMS and post triggering support	120 WASHCOMs	28 WASHCOMs
		Train rural Women in slab construction	360 (4 States)	120 (4 States)
		Train rural Women and girls on entrepreneurial skills	480 (4 States)	160 (4 States)
		Train rural women and girls on Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), facility Operation and maintenance and Health education	480 (4 States)	160 (4 States)

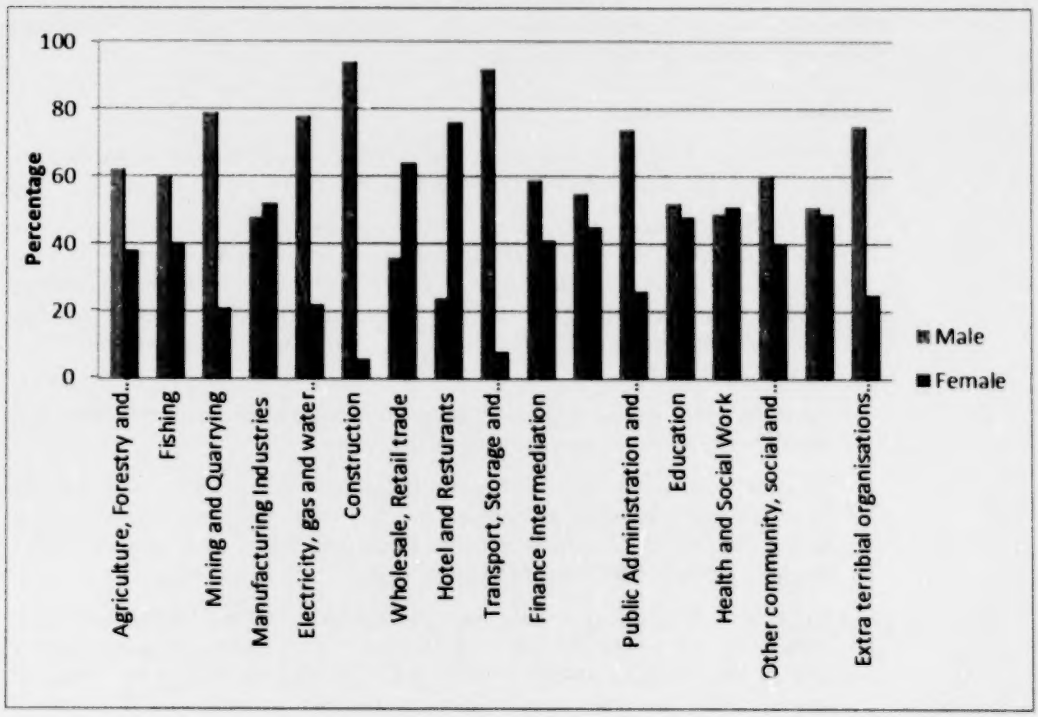
S/N	Ministry	Focus	Target	Achieved
5	Federal Ministry of Works	Train women and employ in road maintenance projects	229 women	1,500 women
		Train women in procurement processes	50 professional women	50 professional women
		FERMA Road Maintenance Training Programme involving production of hand craft and artefacts, at the Federal Ministry of Works Training School in Kaduna	50 rural women	50 rural women

Source: *Federal Ministry of Finance.*

Improvements in gender occupational roles

5.12 Occupational Distribution by Gender in 2007 and that of Distribution of Persons by Occupational Group (per cent) show a marked improvement in women's participation in more lucrative occupations compared with 2006 when the ratio of participation of men and women in the formal sector was 87 per cent to 11 per cent (NGP, 2007).

Figure 5.1
Distribution of Workers in Major Occupations by sex, 2007



Key Challenges

5.13 Despite the progress being made in terms of changing gender roles and stereotypes, a lot of challenges still persist. The following challenges still need to be tackled:

- Religion — lack of proper interpretation of religious texts and the quoting of religion as an alibi for certain stereotypes and religious practices.
- Culture and Traditional practices.
- Legislature — there is still a general lack of awareness and enforcement of existing laws and a slow response to change by law enforcement officers.

Chapter 6

Article 6: Trafficking in Women and Exploitation for Prostitution

Legislative and Legal Measures

6.1 NAPTIP's experience over the years has highlighted the need to amend the enabling law of the agency, hence the presentation of the Bill for an Act to Amend the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement Administration Act of 2003 to the National Assembly in 2013. The Law is aimed at bringing the current anti-trafficking legislation in conformity with the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and also to clarify definitions of different offences, removing the option of fine and increasing penalty for traffickers. The law if passed will recognise and sanction new offences based on the dimensions of crimes associated with trafficking in persons that are not covered by the existing law.

Administrative Measures

6.2 Despite the gaps in the existing law, several administrative measures have been put in place to drive effective response to TIPs:

- The Federal Executive Council (FEC) approved the National Policy on Protection Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria and the National Strategic Plan on TIP in November 2008. This Policy adopts a holistic approach in the protection and assistance to trafficked persons through rehabilitation programmes that provide appropriate integration into their various communities.
- NAPTIP produced the guidelines for the protection of children in formal care, which was adopted by Stakeholders in December 2009.
- NAPTIP now has 8 Zonal Offices in the 6 (six) geopolitical zones and the Federal Capital Territory as opposed to 6 that were reported in 2006: Abuja, Lagos, Benin, Uyo, Enugu, Sokoto, Kano, Maiduguri and Makurdi. State Working Groups (SWG) have also been created in all of these Zones.
- Shelters — NAPTIP now operates nine Shelters located in Abuja and eight Zonal Offices. There are other shelter facilities nationwide being run by private organizations (NGOs) which NAPTIP also monitors (see table 3.1 above). There are other support services designed to meet specific needs of trafficked victims in these shelters:

- Establishment of Victims of Trafficking Trust Fund in 2008 which has been helpful in alleviating the challenge of financial constraint thus aiding the Federal Government to achieve more through NAPTIP;
- Nigeria is presently collaborating with Italy, France, Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain, United States of America, Finland, Britain, Saudi Arabia, Norway, Benin Republic and Organizations such as UNODC, IOM, UNICEF, ILO, USAID, UNICRI, WOTCLEF etc.
- UNODC signed a revised Project Document and Grant Agreement to the tune of $180,000 with NAPTIP in areas of Training Needs Assessment, Training Curriculum and Strategy Development, NAPTIP immediate Training Priorities and Training for Law Enforcement Agencies.
- The Nigerian Police Force, Nigerian Immigration Service and social services personnel received specialized training on how to identify victims of trafficking and make appropriate referrals to NAPTIP.

Activities to curb Trafficking in Persons (TIPs)

6.3 Progress recorded is reflected in the under listed activities executed during the reporting period are as follows:

- Sensitization campaigns at motor parks in Maiduguri (November, 2009) and Benin (March 2010). Members of National Union of Road Transport Workers were educated on dangers of human trafficking and strategies for its prevention.
- Grassroots awareness campaign in Kogi and Benue States (North-Central Nigeria) from September to December 2009.
- Indoor sensitization of students in Abuja in October 2009.
- Sensitization Walk in August 2009 to raise awareness and educate public on the dangers of TIP.
- Annual public lecture on human trafficking held in 2009 and 2010.
- Sensitization workshop for students and others in FCT and Nassarawa in North Central; Abia, Imo and Anambra in South-East; Ogun State in South-West.
- Radio programme for Almajiri children in Kano (March-April 2010).
- NAPTIP jingles on television and radio and Participation in live radio programmes.
- Interactive sessions on human trafficking.
- A public awareness campaign titled "*Expose the Trafficker: Do not be a Victim*", held in March as well as in May 2010 in endemic states and was targeted at secondary schools and motor parks for awareness creation.
- Sensitization of Corps members in Kaduna, Sokoto and Zamfara States between April 2009 and July 2010.

Notable Achievements on TIPs

6.4 A total of two thousand, seven hundred and twenty six (2,726) cases of human trafficking had been reported to the NAPTIP since inception. Between 2010 and 2011, NAPTIP won a total of thirty seven (37) cases, which resulted in forty four (44) convictions of 22 male and 22 female offenders. With this, a total of two hundred and eighteen (218) convictions had been secured by the Agency from inception till the end of year 2013.

6.5 Four hundred and seven (407) cases of human trafficking and other related matters were reported to the agency in the year 2013. Of the 407 cases reported, 266 (65.4 per cent) were successfully investigated. From Table 6.1 below, external trafficking for sexual exploitation had the highest number of cases (23.6 per cent) reported to the agency in the year 2013.

Table 6.1
Classification of Cases reported to NAPTIP between 2012 and 2013

	2013		*2012*		*Variance*
Cases reported	*No*	*%*	*No*	*%*	*%*
External trafficking for sexual exploitation	96	23.6	96	24.0	-0.4
Internal trafficking for sexual exploitation	17	4.2	18	4.5	-0.3
External trafficking for labour exploitation	18	4.4	21	5.3	-0.9
External trafficking for labour exploitation	37	9.1	25	6.3	+2.8
Nigerians deported as illegal migrants	5	1.2	1	0.3	+0.9
Child labour	54	13.3	54	13.5	-0.2
Child abuse	78	19.2	64	16.0	+3.2
Child abduction from guardianship	38	9.3	29	7.3	+2.0
Forced marriage	3	0.7	0	0.0	+0.7
Rape/sexual abuse	14	3.4	24	6.0	-2.6
Others	47	11.5	68	17.0	-5.5
Total	**407**	**100.0**	**400**	**100.0**	

Source: *NAPTIP 2013 Data Analyses Report.*

6.6

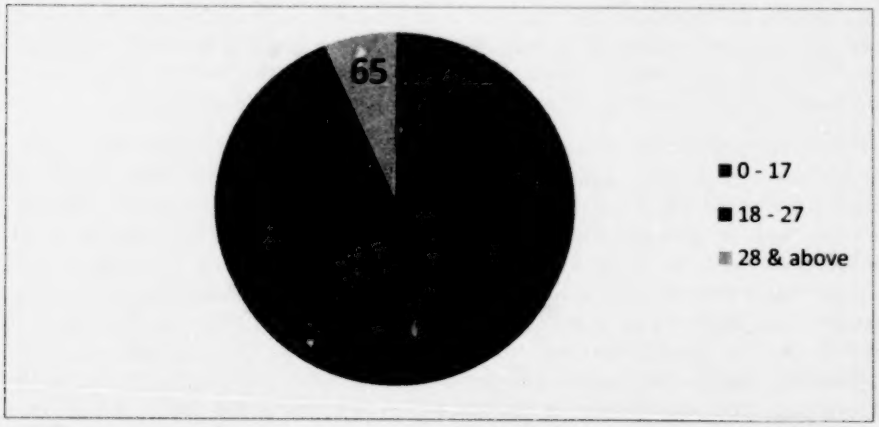
Table 6.2
Classification of rescued victims between 2012 and 2013

	2013		*2012*		*Variance*
Cases reported	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*%*
External trafficking for sexual exploitation	186	19.3	226	30.2	-40.0
Internal trafficking for sexual exploitation	58	6.0	55	7.3	+3.0
External trafficking for labour exploitation	25	2.6	39	5.2	-14.0
External trafficking for labour exploitation	96	10.0	53	7.1	+43.0
Nigerians deported as illegal migrants	21	2.2	14	1.9	+7.0
Child labour	212	22.0	205	27.4	+7.0
child abuse	37	3.8	60	8.0	-23.0
Child abduction from guardianship	8	0.8	4	0.5	+4.0
Forced marriage	3	0.3	0	0.0	+3.0
Rape/sexual abuse	4	0.4	16	2.1	-12.0
Others	314	32.6	77	10.3	+237.0
Total	**964**	**100.0**	**400**	**100.0**	

Source: *NAPTIP 2013 Data Analyses Report.*

6.7 As shown in Table 6.2 above, the number of rescued victims of external trafficking for sexual exploitation reduced in 2013 when compared with 2012 by 10.9 per cent. Number of victims rescued for Child labour also dropped by 5.4 per cent in the year. As shown in Figure 6.1, a review of the age distribution of rescued victims in 2013 reveals that 61.3 per cent of the total victims rescued were children under 17 years of age as against 50.9 per cent that were rescued in the previous year. This represents an increase of 10.4 per cent over what was recorded in the year 2012.

Figure 6.1
Age distribution of rescued victims



Source: *NAPTIP 2013 Data Analyses Report.*

Table 6.3
Summary of activities of NAPTIP

S/N		Inception to Dec. 2013
1.	Total number of cases received	2 726
2.	Total number of cases investigated	2 486
3.	Total number of victims rescued	7 529
4.	Total number of victims empowered	539
5.	Total number of convictions secured	218

Source: *NAPTIP 2013 Data Analyses Report.*

Challenges

6.8 Victims of sexual abuse and exploitation prefer to solve their problems without involving the law enforcement agents or seeking redress in the law courts. Reported cases are oftentimes withdrawn because victims are either pressurized by family members to do so or lose faith in the ability of the system to protect them.

Other challenges include:

Stigma, poverty, low self-esteem as well as other forms of disempowerment make victims, usually women, reluctant to report abuse or leave their violators.

Chapter 7

Articles: 7 and 8: Women's Representation in Political and Public Life and at International Levels

National Context

7.1 Apart from maintaining the lead as voters in elections, women's presence as aspirants for top positions increased from 3.2 per cent in 2003 to 7.58 per cent in 2011.

7.2 In 2011 an unprecedented number of women (500) won their parties' nominations as candidates for the state and federal legislative houses. Results of local government elections in at least 20 states show a surge in women's entry that had not been seen before. More progress is expected in 2015 as the country continues to update existing institutional mechanisms and build new ones.

7.3 At the international level, appointment of individuals into Foreign Service in the last two dispensations has been based on experience. The years 2007 to 2014 in Nigeria witnessed increased number of women representing the country in foreign missions and international agencies both on appointment and on personal merit. At the international level, Nigeria has put women in the fore-front of its foreign policy negotiations, diplomacy and economic development, especially in recognition of the Nation's role in Africa as a driver of peace, stability and centre of commerce and growth. Within international organizations, adherence to the principle of equal opportunity employment has encouraged women to apply and secure jobs as heads of missions, top notch advisors and judges within and outside the shores of Nigeria.

Representation in Elected Positions

7.4 Over the years, there has been a continuous strengthening by government and civil society organizations of the administrative, policy and legal environment for formulating gender responsive programmes and effectively respond to the challenges of women in political and public life.

Key Response Actions

7.5 A strategic framework for the implementation of the National Gender Policy of 2006 was developed and adopted in 2008. Following the NGP many MDAs including INEC have come up with and are implementing specific gender policies aligned with the NGP framework.

7.6 Zonal Women Political Empowerment Offices in collaboration with women focused NGOs were established for the purpose of mobilizing women for political participation and giving technical support in the form of capacity building for aspirants and candidates. This effort substantially contributed to the increase in the number of women in the National Assembly from 25 (5.4 per cent) in 2003 to 34 (7.7 per cent) in 2007 and 32 (6.8 per cent) in 2011. See tables below.

Table 7.1
Women Elected To Public Office in Nigeria 1999-2011

	1999			*2003*			*2007*			*2011*		
Office	*Seats available*	*Women*	*% age*	*Seats available*	*Women*	*% age*	*Seats available*	*Women*	*% age*	*Seats available*	*Women*	*% age*
President	1	0			0			0			0	
Senate	109	3	2.8	109	4	3.7	109	9	8.3	109	8	7.3
House of Representatives	360	7	1.9	360	21	5.8	360	27	6.9	360	24	6.7
Governor	36	0		36	0		36	0		36	0	
State House Assembly (SHA)	990	24	2.4	990	40	3.9	990	57	5.8	990	69	7
SHA Committee Chairpersons	829	18	2.2	881	32	3.6	887	52	5.9	887	NA	
LGA Chairpersons	710	13	1.8	774	15	1.9	740	27	3.6	740		
Councillors	6 368	69	1.1	6 368	267	4.2	6 368	235	3.7	6 368	NA	

Source: *Independent National Electoral Commission, 2011.*

Table 7.2
Segregation of Candidates in 2007 and 2011 General Elections

S.N	Type of Elections	No. of Male Candidates			No. of Female Candidates			Total No. of Candidates	
		2007	2011	% Increase of Male	2007	2011	% Increase of Female	2007	2011
1	Presidential Election	24	35	45.83	1	5	400	25	40
2	Governorship Election	471	646	37.15	14	73	421.43	485	719
3	Election into The Senate	737	805	9.23	61	92	50.82	798	897
4	House of Representatives Election	2 190	2 220	1.37	137	224	63.50	2 327	2 444
5	State House of Assembly Election	5 415	5 512	1.79	303	527	73.93	5 718	6 039
	Total	**8 837**	**9 218**	**4.31**	**516**	**921**	**78.49**	**9 353**	**10 139**

Source: *FES, Discussion Paper No. 4, April 2013: State and Political Participation: Women in Nigeria's 2011 Elections. P.20 in Voices for Change Baseline Report 2014.*

Table 7.3
Number of Seats Held By Women

Year	Houses of Assembly		House of Representatives		The Senate	
	Seats available	No. of women	Seats available	No. of women	Seats available	No. of women
1999	978	12	360	13	109	3
2003	951	39	339	21	109	4
2007	990	54	358	25	109	9
2011	990	69	360	23	109	8

Source: *INEC, 2011.*

7.7 Besides reproductive roles, other factors have been identified that restrain women's participation in politics. One of them is low level of education especially in the North (UKAID, 2012). *Unlike in previous elections, women's performance in the North showed a marginal but encouraging improvement despite security challenges (UKAID, 2012). (See tables below.)*

Table 7.4
Women Elected into Political Office by Region

2011	Governor	Senate	House of Reps	State House of Assembly
North-Central	0	1	2	15
North East	0	1	4	4
North West	0	1	1	2
South East	0	2	6	21
South-South	0	1	4	12
South West	0	1	8	15

Source: *UKAID Gender in Nigeria Report 2012.*

7.8 Gender disaggregated information on the political sector obtained from the National Gender Data Bank hosted by the NCWD shows that women accounted for a minimal proportion of positions held across board from 1999-2011 (see table 7.5 below). Although there is a gradual increase of female elected political office holders in 2007 and 2011, the margin is still very wide compared to the affirmative action requirements. There has been continuous increase in the number of women voted into the state legislatures between 2009 and 2011. Table 7.5 below gives a summary of the number of women and men in the legislature between 1999 and 2011.

Table 7.5
Summary of Seats Held in the National Assembly by Year and Sex

	1999-2003		*2003-2007*		*2007-2011*		*2011*	
Legislators	*Number*	*%*	*Number*	*%*	*Number*	*%*	*Number*	*%*
Senate								
Male	106	97.25	105	96.33	100	91.74	101	92.7
Female	3	2.75	4	3.67	9	8.26	8	7.3
Total	**109**	**100.0**	**109**	**100.0**	**109**	**100.0**	**109**	**100.0**
House of Reps								
Male	348	96.67	338	93.88	334	92.78	336	93.3
Female	12	3.33	22	6.12	26	7.22	24	6.7
Total	**360**	**100.0**	**360**	**100.0**	**360**	**100.0**	**360**	**100.0**
Both Houses								
Male	454	96.8	443	94.46	434	92.32	437	93.2
Female	15	3.2	26	5.54	35	7.58	32	6.8
Total	**469**	**100.0**	**469**	**100.0**	**469**	**100.0**	**469**	**100.0**

Source: *National Gender Data Bank, NCWD, 2009, Gender and Affirmative Action Issue Based Project 2011.*

Table 7.6
Women in State Assemblies 2007 and 2011

	Honourable Members							
	1999		*2003*		*2007*		*2011*	
State	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
	939 (97.81%)	21 (2.19%)	933 (96.48%)	34 (3.52%)	913 (94.51%)	53 (5.49%)	921 93.03%)	69 6.97%
Total	**960 (100%)**		**967 (100%)**		**966 (100%)**		**990 (100%)**	

Source: *Independent National Electoral Commission.*

Table 7.7
Number of seats held in Local Government Council by Sex, 1999, 2003, 2007 and 2011

	1999		*2003*		*2007*		*2011*	
Office Type	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Chairpersons	588 (98.82%)	7 (1.18%)	700 (98.04%)	14 (1.96%)	227 (95.38%)	11 (4.6%)	NA	NA
Total	**595 (100%)**		**714 (100%)**		**238 (100%)**			**NA**
Councillors	6 532 (98.79%)	80 (1.21%)	8 698 (96.99%)	270 (3.01%)	1 576 (90.57%)	164 (9.43%)	NA	NA
Total	**6 612 (100%)**		**8 968 (100%)**		**1 740 (100%)**			**NA**

Source: *Independent National Electoral Commission.*

Representation by Appointment

7.9 The representation of women in appointive positions has witnessed gradual but steady increase since Nigeria's return to democratic government in 1999. Available data for the period 1999-2010 shows that there were 7 female Cabinet Ministers out of 42 available seats. This is a representation of 16.66 per cent while from 2010 till date there are 13 female cabinet ministers, a 31 per cent representation which is a near double increase from the previous administrations (see table 4.2 above).

7.10 Currently, the number of female permanent secretaries is put at 11 out of 42 seats representing 25.58 per cent. Out of the 43 available seats for Permanent Secretaries, between 1999-2007 and 2007-2010 women representation was at 18.60 per cent and 20.93 per cent respectively. Female Ambassadorial appointment is currently at 11 out of the 86 available seats, this is a 12.79 per cent representation. Office of the Special Advisers has 4 women out of the 18 available seats, a representation which is at 22.22 per cent.

7.11 There has been significant increase in the participation of women in decision making as managers and technical advisers in the design/implementation of environment policies and programmes. Examples include:

- In the Nigerian Senate (Upper Legislative Arm) where a woman is currently the Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment while the immediate past Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Environment was also a woman. Similarly, the last two Honourable Ministers in charge of the Environment in Nigeria were also women.
- At the state levels, there are women that are either commissioners or permanent secretaries in the ministries of environment and agriculture.
- In the higher institutions of learning, women are holding key positions.

7.12 Advocacy and sustained agitation for 35 per cent Affirmative Action in favour of women was geared to bridging the gaps in both elected and appointive positions at all levels by 2015. This has also resulted in spill over gains for women in the military and Para-military systems as more of them are being promoted into top

level decision-making positions. Enrolment of women in the Nigerian Defense Academy in 2013 was 50 while police women now go for Peace keeping missions.

7.13 In the area of judicial appointments (as mentioned earlier in paragraph 4.14) the first female Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria was sworn in April 2012 and across the 36 states of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory judiciaries, women constitute 24 per cent of the total number of high court judges. In states like Lagos and Rivers, women constitute more than 35 per cent of the total number of Judges. The Table below shows the scenario of appointment in some States in relation to a few positions.

Women in Foreign Service

7.14 Nigeria has put women in the fore-front of its development agenda pillar, which includes its foreign policy. The trend which became noticeable from 2003 to 2007 peaked in 2011 with the appointment of 13 women Ministers including a Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

7.15 There has been a gradual increase in the number of female ambassadors representing the country. As at 2006, out of 87 Ambassadorial appointments, 7 were women, representing 8.04 per cent with 80 of them being male, representing 91.96 per cent. Of the total of the 593 diplomatic staff, 63 are women representing 10.6 per cent of the total number. In 2007, a total of 71 Ambassadors were appointed, 64 were male representing 90.1 per cent and 7 female representing 9.9 per cent showing an increase from what it was in 2006. In 2014, a total of 93 Ambassadors have been appointed with 82 male representing 88.2 per cent while female is 11 representing 11.8 per cent. (*See table 7.8 below*)

Table 7.8
Numbers of Ambassadors in Service by Gender — 2006, 2007-2008, 2014

	2006		*2007-2008*		*2014*	
Year	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Number	80	7	64	7	82	11
%	91.96	8.04	90.1	9.9	88.2	11.8
Total	**87 (100%)**		**71 (100%)**		**93 (100%)**	

Source: *Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja 2014, Daily Champion Newspaper, September 2007; The Punch Newspaper, January 2014.*

Table 7.9
Number of Officers in Foreign Service by Gender, 2014

S/N	*Cadre*	*Male*	*Percentage*	*Female*	*Percentage*
i.	Top Management	94	90.4%	10	9.6%
ii.	Middle Management	210	72.7%	79	27.3%
iii.	Lower Management	230	58.1%	166	41.9%
	Total	**534**	**67.7%**	**255**	**32.3%**

Source: *Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja 2014.*

7.16 From Table 7.9 above, generally more male than female are in foreign service and women are particularly few at the decision making level i.e. 9.6 per cent female top management staff compared to 90.4 per cent of their male counterparts at the same level.

Women in International Organizations

7.17 Many international organizations report that they have internal gender parity strategy on employment. However it is not clear the extent of enforcement/ adherence to such guidelines. Most international organizations stipulate however that they are **equal opportunity employers**.

Challenges

7.18 Family, growing up and socio-cultural background; Patriarchal Culture And Practices; Finance Constitutional Constraints.

Chapter 8

Article 10: Bridging Gender Disparity in Education

8.1 Gender equality education in Nigeria is pursued under major international frameworks as MDGs, the Education For All agreement which stipulates compulsory enrolment, retention, completion and transition to higher level of all girls in schools with Expansion of "Second Chance" education for all through non-formal provision. Policies and interventions towards improving women's access to education received a tremendous boost over the past eight years (2007-Date). Comparison of data from 2002 to 2013 shows that budgetary allocation to the education sector had witness a gradual increase as indicated in Table 8.1 below. The lowest allocation of N75.71 billion was in 1999 (4.46 per cent) while the highest was in 2013 when the education sector was allocated 509.04 billion naira which represents 9 per cent of the total budget (www.finintellmagazine.ngr.com, 2014).

Table 8.1
Nigerian budgetary allocation for Education sector between 1999 and 2013

S/N	*Year*	*Allocation*	*S/n*	*Year*	*Allocation*
1	2002	75.71 Billion	7	2008	252.20 Billion
2	2003	93.77 Billion	8	2009	339.63 Billion
3	2004	147.84 Billion	9	2010	393.81 Billion
4	2005	195.69 Billion	10	2011	426.65 Billion
5	2006	221.07 Billion	11	2012	468.39 Billion
6	2007	250.14 Billion	12	2013	509.04 Billion

Source: *www.finitellmagazine.ngr.com (2014).*

8.2 Further to improvement in budgetary allocation to education, the Federal Government has also committed 2 per cent of consolidated revenue towards achieving the goals of Universal Basic Education Programme. Seventy per cent (70 per cent) of this 2 per cent is shared to states in the form of conditional

matching grants, while the Federal Government retains 30 per cent. Of the 30 per cent consolidated fund retained by the Federal Government, 14 per cent is used as special grant to address imbalance in girl child education.

8.3 The National Policy on Gender in Basic Education (2006) compliments other policies like the National Policy on Education (2004, revised 2007), Universal Education Policy, National Admission in Tertiary Institutions Policy, National Framework for Girls and Women, Technology and Information Policy of 2011, etc., which are all deliberate plans of action to guide decisions and achieve planned outcomes. Specific interventions such as the Federal Ministry of Education, DFID and UNICEF collaboration on Girls' Education Project (GEP) Phase 1 (2004-2008) which targeted six pilot states (Bauchi, Borno, Jigawa, Katsina, Niger and Sokoto) with high gender disparity in education recorded an increase in enrolment, retention and completion of girls. At the commencement of GEP 1, it was estimated that of about 7.3 million children of primary school age (6-12 years) that were out of school, 4.3 million (62 per cent) were girls, with national average gender gap in enrolment standing at 12 per cent. However, by 2008, there was a remarkable increase in enrolment and the average gender gap had improved to 10 per cent and Net Attendance Rate (NAR) increased to 51 per cent.

Expanding Basic Education

8.4 Table 8.2 reveals that primary school enrolments have been fluctuating between 2004 and 2008. Although the gender gap is closing, sample surveys revealed that the gross enrolment ratio of girls is still significantly lower than that of boys. UNESCO (2008) reported a net enrolment ratio of 68 per cent and 59 per cent for boys and girls, respectively.

Table 8.2
National Primary School enrolment figures (2004-2008)

Year	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Total schools	60 189	60 189	54 434	54 434	54 434
Total Enrolment	21 395 510	22 115 432	23 017 124	21 632 070	21 294 517
Total Male Enrolment	11 824 494	12 189 073	12 575 689	11 683 503	11 483 943
Total Female Enrolment	9 571 016	9 926 359	10 441 435	9 948 567	9 810 575
Total Teachers	591 474	599 172	586 749	468 202	9 810 575
Total Male Teachers	291 384	294 434	323 798	241 826	300 931
Total Female Teachers	300 090	304 738	262 951	226 376	285 990
Total Classrooms	254 319	254 310	319 590	319 590	319 590
Teacher/Pupil ratio	36	37	39	46	36

Source: *FME, Abuja; UBEC, Abuja, 2008.*

8.5 It can be deduced from Table 8.2 that enrolment rates of boys are consistently higher than those of girls in primary schools.

Improving Secondary Education

8.6 Reports also indicate that gender disparity exists between male and female at secondary school level nationwide as shown in Table 8.3.

Table 8.3
Summary of national secondary school statistics, 2004-2008

Year	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Total schools	98 077	98 077	98 077	98 077	98 077
Total Enrolment	6 279 462	6 397 343	6 536 038	6 068 160	6 625 943
Total Male Enrolment	3 593 706	3 543 425	3 642 871	3 460 146	3 682 141
Total Female Enrolment	2 739 754	2 854 718	2 893 167	2 608 014	2 943 802
Total Teachers	154 594	144 413	199 163	207 283	270 650
Total Male Teachers	99 404	91 080	122 462	136 285	167 527
Total Female Teachers	55 191	53 333	76 701	70 998	103 123
Total Classrooms	10 913	10 913	18 238	18 238	18 238
Teacher/Pupil ratio	40	44	32	29	24

Source: *NBS, 2009.*

8.7 An assessment of Table 8.2 and 8.3 showed that most boys and girls who attend primary school do not enrol in secondary education. While the net secondary enrolment rate (NER) for boys was 29 per cent, girls' NER was 22 per cent. Table 8.3 showed that while there was a marginal increase in girls' enrolment in secondary education between 2004 and 2007, a significant increase in girls' enrolment was recorded between 2007 and 2008. The ratio of girls to boys in secondary education showed only a marginal increase from 79.4 per cent in 2006 to 79.9 per cent in 2008 but showed an impressive increase to 88 per cent in 2012. Previously, low rate of enrolment of girls in secondary education has been linked to a lack of female teachers who could act as role models (UNESCO, 2003). Tables 8.2 and 8.3 showed that near doubling of female teacher number over the years has not had the effect of doubling school enrolment by girls. This suggests that other factors are in play.

8.8 Although there was a significant increase in primary net attendance ratio for both boys and girls between 2003 and 2011, the NAR of 70 per cent in 2011 is still below the EFA target of having all Nigerian school age children in school by 2015 (Table 8.4). The trend showed lower secondary school NAR for both female and male students but indicated the doubling of the NAR for female students between 1990 and 2011 (Table 8.4).

Table 8.4
Net primary and secondary attendance ratio, 1990-2010

	All (%)		*Female (%)*		*Male (%)*	
Year	*Primary*	*Secondary*	*Primary*	*Secondary*	*Primary*	*Secondary*
1990	51	24	48	22	54	26
2003	60	35	57	33	64	38
2010	61	44	58	44	64	44
2011	70	54	68	54	72	54

Source: *MICS (2011), MDGs (2010).*

Undergraduate and Post Graduate Student Enrolment

8.9 Table 8.5 indicates the undergraduate students' enrolment in Nigerian Universities in 2010 and 2011 (NUC, 2013). Although there was a significant increase in the number of enrolment for both males and females in 2010 and 2011, the number of females enrolled into Federal, State and Private Universities is still generally lower than males' enrolment.

Table 8.5
Summary of undergraduate students' enrolment in Nigerian Universities, 2010 and 2011

	Federal Universities				*State Universities*				*Private Universities*			
	2010		*2011*		*2010*		*2011*		*2010*		*2011*	
Course	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Administration	25 015	16 047	25 920	16 589	21 649	19 047	23 210	16 680	7 460	7 340	8 303	8 530
Agriculture	16 876	10 747	19 680	11 897	9 052	6 950	10 410	7 736	244	299	270	305
Arts	16 848	17 985	20 106	19 730	14 546	14 823	14 630	15 094	1 673	1 716	1 518	1 776
Dentistry	863	606	840	584	9	3	9	6	0	0	0	0
Education	32 637	26 060	40 211	32 073	16 802	18 466	22 559	24 761	408	231	82	164
Engineering	45 205	7 257	45 706	6 463	17 664	4 377	21 381	3 275	2 572	1 967	4 497	1 178
Environmental Sciences	15 091	4 119	14 902	4 325	4 334	2 393	4 618	2 715	354	310	535	268
Law	8 885	9 633	19 860	9 722	5 569	4 389	4 079	3 253	737	807	839	1 390
Medicine	15 819	10 852	16 595	11 772	7 345	7 401	9 775	8 670	1 759	2 164	1 595	2 605
Pharmacy	2 983	2 529	3 499	2 629	382	433	531	541	401	424	359	537
Sciences	60 311	36 208	78 342	50 703	36 638	21 670	37 389	21 125	9 083	6 366	8 765	6 302
Social Sciences	37 271	14 348	38 738	12 789	27 564	19 141	25 714	15 462	6 368	6 337	5 761	7 043
Veterinary Medicine	1 824	757	1 911	772	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**279 628**	**157 148**	**326 310**	**180 048**	**161 554**	**119 093**	**174 305**	**119 318**	**31 059**	**27 961**	**32 524**	**30 098**

Source: *NUC, 2013.*

8.10 From the above trend or pattern, it can be deduced from the figures that the enrolment rates of males in other courses are consistently higher than that of females in most of the courses in Nigerian universities. The enrolment into post graduate diploma in Nigerian universities by discipline and gender in 2010 and 2011 is shown in Table 8.13. The drop in the enrolment of female students into post graduate diploma programmes cuts across all courses in all Nigerian universities.

Table 8.7
Summary of Masters Students enrolment in Nigerian Universities by course and sex, 2010 and 2011

	Federal Universities				*State Universities*				*Private Universities*			
	2010		*2011*		*2010*		*2011*		*2010*		*2011*	
Course	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*
Administration	3 526	4 004	7 354	3 671	609	293	1 154	470	175	97	259	175
Agriculture	1 448	926	1 860	851	30	13	127	86	0	0	3	0
Arts	1 764	1 338	2 196	1 592	186	102	553	270	0	0	3	10
Dentistry	6	3	45	40	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education	5 365	4 756	5 890	3 256	150	111	990	762	0	0	1	5
Engineering	1 470	367	3 255	586	51	6	0	0	0	0	7	0
Environmental Sciences	1 212	284	1 469	433	89	25	0	0	0	0	4	1
Law	578	341	942	515	100	55	81	37	0	0	4	4
Medicine	822	537	918	919	24	1	84	47	0	0	10	7
Pharmacy	233	164	378	289	0	0	7	4	0	0	0	0
Sciences	3 680	1 868	5 783	2 625	82	33	342	114	1	0	16	4
Social Sciences	5 296	2 438	5 637	1 963	289	122	1 557	567	13	6	46	27
Veterinary Medicine	229	74	295	108	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**25 639**	**17 100**	**36 022**	**16 848**	**1 616**	**761**	**4 895**	**2 357**	**189**	**105**	**353**	**233**

Source: *NUC, 2013.*

Special Initiatives on Girls Access to Quality Education

8.11 In a bid to complement efforts of the teachers and students for better performance in learning and teaching:

- Government distributed free computers;
- Some states bear the cost of the final year examination (W.A.E.C) for students;
- Northern Education Initiative funded by USAID piloted;
- Sponsorship to tertiary institutions after securing admission;
- Free and compulsory education;
- Overseas training and scholarship up to PhD level;
- Implementation of the provisions of Child's Rights Act;

- Building of more women centres and women day colleges;
- Special programme on re-absorption of children into school, especially girls who drop out of school in almost all states of the federation;
- Introduction of the conditional cash transfer scheme;
- Provision of school materials to primary school pupils especially girls has encouraged girl's retention in school.

Chapter 9

Article 11: Employment

Legal Framework and Context

9.1 The Nigerian Constitution (Section 42(1)) guarantees the right of all its citizens, irrespective of sex, to equal opportunities. Issues of employment are regulated by provisions of the Nigerian Labour Act as well as the various ILO Conventions that Nigeria is a signatory to. Other legislative acts that govern employment in the country include: Labour Act of 1974, the Trade Disputes Act of 1976 and Trade Dispute Services Act of 1976, the Trade Union Act of 1973 and the Factories Act of 1961/Pension Act and Age retirement for men and women. Gender equity policy of the Nigerian Labour Congress (2003) also affirms gender justice in terms of equal access to employment opportunities, absence of discriminatory practices against both genders and recognition of the productive and reproductive roles of each gender.

Recent Improvement in the Employment of Women

9.2 The efforts of the Government are beginning to yield positive results some of which are reflected in the data below:

- The share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector rose from 6.60 per cent in 1990 to 7.90 per cent in 2004 and the FMWA&SD estimates that it increased to 14.0 per cent in 2012.
- ILO study reveals narrow gap in male/female labour force participation rates from 2007 to 2011 (see table 9.1 below).

Table 9.1
Labour force participation for ages 15-24 and 15-64 by sex and year (%)

Age Group	*Gender*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
15-24 years	Female	34.50	34.50	34.60	34.60	34.70
	Male	39.60	39.70	39.90	40.00	40.20
	Total	37.10	37.20	37.30	37.40	37.50
15-64 years	Female	47.80	47.80	47.90	48.00	48.10
	Male	62.20	62.40	62.70	62.90	63.20
	Total	76.40	76.20	76.11	75.87	75.67
	Ratio of Female to Male	76.40	76.20	76.11	75.87	75.67

Source: *ILO (2011).*

Table 9.2
Job creation in fourth Quarter of 2012 by Gender (Formal Sector)

	Full Time		*Part Time*		*Total*		
Sector	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*All Total*
Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry and Hunting	420	78	319	61	740 (84.22%)	139 (15.78%)	878 (0.58%)
Mining and Quarrying	42	10	73	91	115 (53.11%)	101 (46.89%)	216 (0.14%)
Manufacturing	5 853	1 200	1 016	160	6 869 (83.39%)	1 369 (16.61%)	8 238 (5.42%)
Construction	1 334	33	57	10	1 391 (97.00%)	43 (3.00%)	1 434 (0.94%)
Trade, Repair of vehicles and household goods	1 096	651	368	88	1 464 (66.45%)	739 (33.55%)	2 203 (1.45%)
Hotels and Restaurants	1 389	1 324	170	142	1 559 (51.55%)	1 465 (48.45%)	3 025 (1.99%)
Transport, Storage and Communication	1 388	269	263	30	1 652 (84.66%)	299 (15.34%)	1 951 (1.28%)
Financial Intermediation	11 752	11 476	363	583	12 115 (50.12%)	12 059 (49.88%)	24 175 (15.90%)
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	1 759	1 190	242	169	2 000 (59.55%)	1 359 (40.45%)	3 359 (2.21%)
Education	27 767	27 755	12 945	8 080	40 712 (53.19%)	35 835 (46.81%)	76 547 (50.35%)
Health and Social Work	1 709	21 022	274	549	1 982 (8.42%)	21 570 (91.58%)	23 552 (15.49%)
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	271	108	5	6 056	277 (4.29%)	6 164 (95.71%)	6 441 (4.24%)
Total	**54 782**	**65 124**	**16 094**	**16 018**	**70 876 (46.62%)**	**81 142 (53.38%)**	**152 018 (100%)**

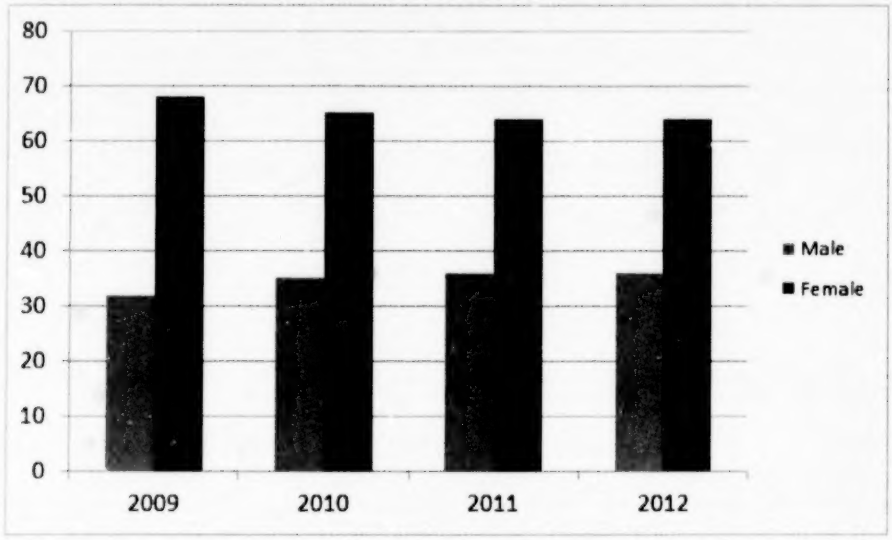
Source: *NBS fourth Quarter 2012 job creation survey.*

Table 9.3
Job Creation in 1st Quarter of 2013 by Gender (Formal Sector)

	Full Time		*Part Time*		*Total*		
Sector	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*All Total*
Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry and Hunting	696	337	214	21	910 (71.72%)	359 (28.28%)	1 269 (0.73%)
Mining and Quarrying	92	27	50	23	143 (74.04%)	50 (25.96%)	193 (0.11%)
Manufacturing	7 104	1 789	1 614	574	8 718 (78.68%)	2 363 (21.32%)	11 080 (6.36%)
Construction	2 200	60	81	0	2 281 (97.46%)	60 (2.54%)	2 341 (1.34%)
Trade, Repair of vehicles and household goods	2 732	1 350	288	56	3 019 (68.23%)	1 406 (31.77%)	4 425 (2.54%)
Hotels and Restaurants	1 614	1 900	177	155	1 790 (46.56%)	2 055 (53.44%)	3 845 (2.21%)
Transport, Storage and Communication	1 648	589	162	10	1 810 (75.14%)	599 (24.86%)	2 409 (1.38%)
Financial Intermediation	18 872	1 955	369	445	19 241 (49.03%)	20 000 (50.97%)	19 241 (22.51%)
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	2 922	1 964	394	316	3 316 (59.25%)	2 281 (40.75%)	5 597 (3.21%)
Education	27 263	25 887	9 844	5 844	37 107 (53.91%)	31 731 (46.09%)	68 838 (39.49%)
Health and Social Work	2 678	23 326	307	516	2 985 (11.13%)	23 842 (88.87%)	26 827 (15.39%)
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	275	153	15	7 818	290 (3.51%)	7 972 (96.49%)	8 262 (4.74%)
Total	**68 096**	**76 937**	**13 515**	**15 778**	**81 611 (46.82%)**	**92 715 (53.18%)**	**174 326 (100%)**

Source: *NBS first Quarter 2013 Job creation Survey*

Figure 9.1
Distribution of pharmacist workforce by gender in Nigeria (2009-2012)



Source: FRN (2013).

9.3 The distribution of labour participation by occupation and gender indicate that there is hardly any sector where women do not participate, and in most of these sectors, there are almost as many females as there are males (Table 9.5).

Table 9.5
Distribution of labour participation in Nigeria by occupation and sex

Occupation sector	*Male*	*Female*	*Gender parity index (GPI)*
Agriculture	41.48	22.41	0.54
Trade and industry	35.08	44.95	1.28
Oil and gas	3.77	1.59	0.42
Services	11.32	13.81	1.22
Others	8.36	17.25	2.06

Source: Federal Government of Nigeria, 2008.

Recent Interventions towards improving women's employment opportunities

9.4 These include:

- The Nigerian Government conceptualized in 2011 the Community Service, Women and Youths Employment (CSWYE) Project under the social safety net programme of the Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) as a short term intervention that engaged 185,000 women, youths and other vulnerable members of the society in stop gap employment services in their communities. Thirty (30 per cent) and twenty (20 per cent) per cents of beneficiary slots were reserved for women and other vulnerable groups

respectively. Distribution of beneficiaries of the programme by sex as at 2013 is presented in Figure 9.2.

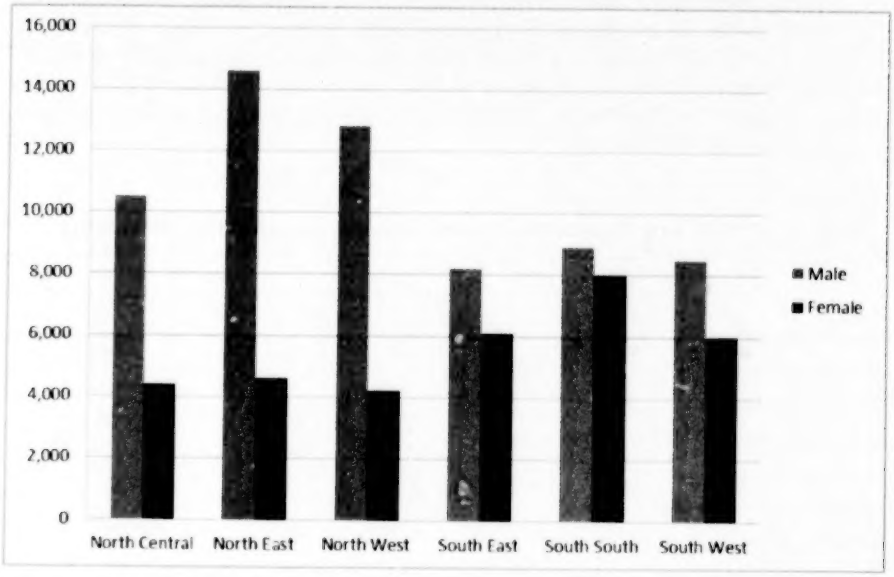
- The National Directorate of Employment (NDE) initiated and is implementing programmes to combat mass unemployment amongst women and youths. In 2011, 182,797 women and youth were employed through the programme, of this number 75,301 (41.19 per cent) were women and 107,496 (58.81 per cent) were men. The distribution by gender of employment by the NDE programme is presented in Table 9.6.

Table 9.6
Summary of NDE Beneficiaries by Scheme and sex, January-December, 2011

	Gender		
Scheme	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Skills Acquisition	22 981	9 731	32 712
Resettlement Loan	1 072	653	1 725
Entrepreneurship Development Programme	76 412	60 310	136 722
Start Your Own Business	118	70	188
Enterprise Creation Fund	1 259	1 475	2 734
Women Employment branch	0	695	695
Basic Business Training	83	21	104
Rural Agricultural Development Training	2 893	1080	3 973
Graduate Attachment Programme	1 785	1 001	2 786
Community Development	23	03	26
Environmental Beautification Training	761	237	998
Solar Energy Training	109	25	134
Total	**107 496**	**75 301**	**182 797**

Source: NDE Annual Report, 2011.

Figure 9.2
SURE-P beneficiaries of the community services, women and youth employment project in 2012.



Source: FGN SURE-P (2013).

9.5 **Other initiatives aimed at promoting women's employment include:**

- The Growing Girls and Women in Nigeria (G-WIN) initiative.
- The Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (You WIN) intervention meant to support aspiring youth with a platform to show case their business acumen, skills and aspirations to business leaders, investors and mentors in Nigeria and receive grants ranging between N1,000,000 to N10,000,000 to start their businesses.
- Currently, the main sector strategy targeting poverty reduction is the Federal Government's Agricultural Transformation Agenda, comprising the Growth Enhancement Scheme, the Value Chain Development Programme and the Nigeria Incentive-based Risk-sharing Agriculture Lending Schemes.
- Conditional Cash Transfer scheme.
- The National Directorate of Employment.
- The National Poverty Eradication Programme.
- The Subsidy Reinvestment Programme (SURE-P).
- Entrepreneurial Development Programmes.
- Skills Acquisition Programme.
- The Young Women Economic Empowerment Programme (YWEEP).
- ICT training for Girls.
- Young women female professional drivers.

Chapter 10

Article 12: Health

National Context

10.1 As observed by the CEDAW Committee following the last report submitted by Nigeria, key challenges of the Nigerian health sector include high maternal mortality, poor health infrastructure, poor access to family planning and obstetric information and services, rural/urban disparity in access to health care services, and high prevalence of Malaria and HIV amongst others. These issues and many more were the focus of government in the past eight years. Although the country is not there yet, remarkable achievements have been recorded within the reporting period.

Maternal Health

10.2 In a bid to achieve a drastic reduction in the annual MMR records, the Government adopted different measures and designed innovative programmes such as:

- free maternal health services for pregnant women;
- commitment of a minimum budgetary allocation of 15 per cent to health care in accordance with the Abuja Declaration of 2007 to "implement free health services for the vulnerable groups of the population especially women during pregnancy, childbirth and puerperal conditions) children under five-years;
- introduction of the Midwives Service Scheme (MSS) in 2009;
- the Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) MCH, 2011 Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) targeted at rural and sub-urban poor pregnant women whereby Cash payments are made to poor households at the point use of ANC and postnatal care services;
- the supply of midwifery kits, basic equipment, drugs, Mama Kits and family planning consumables;
- the Emergency Transportation Scheme, (ETS);
- launch of Save One Million Lives by 2015 Programme;
- the ABIYE project;
- passage of Maternal and Child Health Initiative and Related Matters Law (2008);
- the Mother and Child Care Initiative (MCCI), 2007;
- Fistula Centre built and equipped for the treatment of obstetric fistula patients;
- Construction of Mother and Child hospitals.

Infrastructural Development

10.3 The National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) established 547 model PHC centres and renovated 354 of such centres which were relatively distributed in uniform manner throughout LGAs across Nigeria between 2011 and 2013. (NPHCDA/SURE-P, 2013).

10.4 Model Primary Health centres are constructed for designated political wards in addition to the one available per state and the FCT. With support from the Global Funds and Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) 499 PHCs have benefited from renovation and/or additional equipment over the years.

Family Planning

10.5 Report from the 2013 NDHS indicated that overall 15 per cent of women are using some contraceptive method, indicating a 2 per cent point increase from the 2003 NDHS. The proportion of married women that were using any form of contraception is seen to increase with increasing age up to a maximum of 21.7 per cent in age 40-44 years (Table 10.1). Married women in urban areas (26.8 per cent) are more likely to use any form of contraception than those in the rural areas (8.5 per cent). Married women from the South West (38.0 per cent) geo-political zone are more likely to use contraceptive that their counterparts from the North East (3.2 per cent) and North West (4.3 per cent) geo-political zones.

Table 10.1
Percentage Distribution of married women ages 15-49 years using contraceptive methods in Nigeria (2013)

Age		*Geo-political zone*		*Residence*	
Age	*Contraceptive use (%)*	*Zone*	*Contraceptive use (%)*	*Residence*	*Contraceptive use (%)*
15-19	2.1	North Central	15.6	Urban	26.8
20-24	9.6	North East	3.2	Rural	8.5
25-29	14.1	North West	4.3		
30-34	19.1	South East	29.3		
35-39	21.0	South South	28.1		
40-44	21.7	South West	38.0		
45-49	13.2				

Source: *NDHS, 2013*

Malaria

10.6 Over 15 million insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) for malaria control were distributed between 2007 and 2013. This led to ITN increasing from 6.5 per cent in 2005 to 17.8 per cent in 2011. The number of IPT doses distributed to pregnant women in 2009 and beyond rose from zero in 2005 to 5 million in 2013.

10.7 Other steps taken include mobilization of communities and organizations to advance the welfare of women and children. World Faith Development Dialogue is engaging 15,000 Imams and Pastors in communities to speak to their followers about malaria prevention and treatment. Advocacy on malaria prevention and treatment through the print and electronic media is a regular feature in Nigeria.

HIV/AIDS

10.8 Nigeria is reported as having the second largest infected population (3.1 million) of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in the world after South Africa (UNAIDS, 2010). This figure has increased slightly to 3.2 million by 2012

(Table 10.2). More female (1.9 million) are infected than male (1.3 million). Between 2010 and 2012 there were more adults that are living with HIV compared with children (less than 15 years) (Table 10.5).

Table 10.2
Trends in HIV/AIDS estimates and projections in Nigeria (2010-2012)

	HIV Estimates and Projections		
HIV population	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*
Total	3 140 000	3 150 000	3 190 000
Male	1 320 000	1 320 000	1 340 000
Female	1 820 000	1 830 000	1 850 000
Prevalence (15-49 yrs.)	3.42%	3.34%	3.27%
New HIV infections			
Total	281 180	2 840 220	285 270
Adult	126 260	127 430	127 760
Children	154 920	156 790	157 510
Annual AIDS deaths			
Total	215 130	233 170	218 160
Male	96 740	104 900	97 680
Female	118 390	128 270	120 480

HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT)

10.9 HCT is the entry point for most HIV and AIDS prevention and control programmes. In 2011, the total number of persons who were counselled, tested and received results in the last twelve months was only 2,792,611. In 2013, the total number of female counselled tested and received results was 3,525,293. In 2013 the total number of male counselled, tested and received results is 1,698,672. In 2013 total number of positive females was 203,017. In 2013 total number positive male was 108,694. The Number of HCT sites in the country increased from 1,074 in 2009 to 1,046 in 2010, 1,357 in 2011, 2,391 in 2012 and 7,075 in 2013.

Presidential HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Response Plan

10.10 This is the first ever in the history of Nigeria. The Nigerian President in collaboration with the Health Minister and health professionals has established a two year comprehensive response plan targeting HIV/AIDS in Nigeria starting from July 2013 to June 2015. The comprehensive plan was developed in response to an evident concern within the HIV/AIDS stakeholders' community to bridge the existing gap and work towards achieving the global target for service uptake. The plan intends to prevent 105,000 infections and save 46,000 lives in 2 years by providing universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment and care and support services.

Special Measures towards Reversing the Trend of HIV

10.11 In a bid to ensure the protection of the rights of HIV positive women and men in Nigeria, many states of the Federation have and continue to pass relevant laws, some of which are:

- HIV and AIDS Workplace Policy in the Cross River State Education Sector (2013).
- NACA launched its comprehensive national Strategic Framework to cover 2010 to 2015 in 2010 at an estimated cost of N756 billion. The programme is aimed at reaching 80 per cent of the sexually active adults with emphasis on women. It is also estimated that 80 per cent infected adults and 100 per cent children would receive ART by 2015. The programme is also aimed at improving access to quality care and support services to at least 50 per cent of people living with HIV by 2015.
- Rivers State Employees with HIV/AIDS (Anti-Discrimination) Law of 2005.

Chapter 11

Article 13: Social and Economic Benefits

11.1 Nigerian women are represented in the formal sector of the economy; they still operate largely within the informal sector running micro and small-scale businesses. Majority of Nigerian women are concentrated in 'casual, low-skilled, low paid informal sector employment'. They also own only about 25-30 per cent of the registered businesses in Nigeria.

Major Achievements during Reporting Period

11.2 Under the Women Funds for Economic Empowerment (WOFEE) programme, 5,500 women cooperatives/groups have received N27.2 Million out of which 6,000 jobs in Animal Fattening, Poultry, Farming and Trading were created during the period. 28 States of the Federation are participating in the scheme, of which 12 States have contributed their counterpart funds to the tune of N103,500,000;

Others include:

- launched in 2013 the Smart Woman and 1000 ICT Girls Training Initiatives.
- Micro-Credit Grants to 444 Agric-Based Cooperative Societies in 748 Local Government Areas launched on 24 April 2014.
- Development of women entrepreneurial activities and encouraging skills acquisition for rural women.
- 77 Skills Acquisition Centres are under construction across the country with 24 of these completed and fully equipped. Each centre is expected to train 500 women and People Living.
- With Disabilities annually to reduce unemployment and associated social vices in the society.
- Provision of soft loans to women through cooperative groups.
- Widows' empowerment programmes.

- Passage of Gender and Equal Opportunities bill in four states between 2008 and 2012.
- Introduction of a leave regimen for male and female civil servants in Lagos state. 17 July 2014, women entitled to 6 months maternity leave and male civil servants whose wives give birth are entitled to 10 working days maternity leave.
- Credit facilities provided by Microfinance banks.
- Girls' Education Programme to improve participation of girls in education/ construction of special schools in 13 states of the Federation.
- Recruitment of a total of 9,243 frontline health workers (4,995 midwives, about 3,000 community health extension workers and 1,248 village health workers under the Midwives Service Scheme and SURE-P maternal and child health programme.
- Development Initiatives for African Women (DIFAW) with accounts already opened for 50 women in Diamond Bank.

Policy Measures: The National Housing and National Urban Development Policies

11.3 The National Housing Policy and National Urban Development Policy were approved on 20 June 2012, thus paving way for an inclusive and participatory process of house ownership. The goal of the National Housing Policy is to ensure that all Nigerians, men and women own or have access to decent, safe and sanitary housing with secure tenure.

11.4 The Federal Government launched various intervention schemes through the relevant parastatals namely the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria and the Federal Housing Authority. Such schemes include the Cooperative Housing Finance and Rent-to-Own schemes for the informal sector. A total of 16,447 housing units were added to the national stock. 59,000 have obtained housing loans, while 37,000 Estate Development Loans and 22,000 mortgages have been provided (Pepple, 2012).

Transformation of the Transport Sector

11.5 There have been constructive developments in the Nigerian transport system in recent years. The overhaul of the railway system and rehabilitation of roads since 2012 provides for mass transportation of citizens and goods at affordable rates and relative comfort.

Presidential Task Force on Power

11.6 In August 2010, President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan launched the Presidential Task Force on Power. The PTFP is charged with the responsibility of developing, monitoring, facilitating and fast tracking the power sector road map delivery target. This was deemed imperative by the Nigerian Government so as to revive the nation's manufacturing sector, improving quality of lives and create jobs especially for women and youths.

Reform of the Land Use Act

11.7 CSOs have called for reforms on the land Use Act and implementation of the Nigeria Land Administration Act through awareness campaigns and enlightenment programmes. These activities will ensure that more women own land assets.

Conclusion

11.8 Diversifying the economy is a viable means to achieve economic and social empowerment especially for women and the Government is working on this.

Chapter 12

Article 14: Women in Rural Areas

12.1 Recent reports have shown that Nigeria has enjoyed sustained economic growth in recent years with real GDP growth rate averaging 6.5 per cent in the last five years. Unfortunately, this growth has not generated enough jobs and the incidence of poverty has been consistently higher in rural areas than urban areas (GFWGN, 2010:30).

Major Achievements during Reporting Period

Poverty Alleviation

12.2 Giant strides have been made in an attempt to address poverty situation especially in the rural areas and among women. Different poverty alleviation initiatives have been developed and are being implemented both at federal and state levels. Some of such are highlighted below:

FADAMA II and III

12.3 The launch of FADAMA III in July, 2008 was a landmark achievement. The project is aimed at increasing the incomes of users of rural land and water resources on a sustainable basis.

Rural Finance Institution Building Programme (RUFIN)

12.4 In order to boost income, food security and general living conditions of poor rural households, particularly female headed households, the Government designed RUFIN which has benefitted about 346,000 families, of which at least 138,000 (40 per cent) are female headed households (FMWASD, 2012:34).

Entrepreneurship Development Centre

12.5 The Central Bank established three Entrepreneurship Development Centres, in three geo-political zones in Nigeria, the Centres from inception in 2008, counselled and trained a cumulative total of 101,847 entrepreneurs out of 61,179 were females, representing 61 per cent of the total trained. Also the number of females that assessed microcredit loans was 406 out of 802 representing 51 per cent. The loan assessed by the women from banks to start their businesses was valued at N109, 149,885.00 ($682,186.78) and a total of 2,078 jobs have been created (FMWASD, 2012:35).

The Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund

12.6 The fund was established to provide guarantee on loans granted by banks to farmers for agricultural production and agro-allied processing. It provides for a fund of N100 million subscribed to by the Federal Government (60 per cent) and Central Bank of Nigeria (40 per cent). (FMWASD, 2012:36).

Women's Fund for Economic Empowerment (WOFEE)

12.7 WOFEE was established as part of Government's effort to facilitate access to investible credit facility for women. The scheme has led to the direct creation of about 3,000 entrepreneurs which further generated additional over 6,000 jobs.

Business Development Fund for Women (BUDFOW)

12.8 The FMWASD has disbursed over N200 million to 1,000 women. The scheme was launched to reduce to the barest minimum gender insensitive and stiff criteria of accessing loans from commercial banks by providing soft short term facilities to women entrepreneurs (FMWASD, 2012:54).

Skills Acquisition/Trainings

12.9 As at March 2014 the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and its Gender and Youth Division had among others conducted training on various agri-business enterprises (see table 12.1 below) along priority value chains. They were also taught group dynamics, financial management and access, record keeping and small scale business identification and management.

Table 12.1
Youth and women in agribusiness investment programme

			List of trainees disaggregated by sex		
Sn	*Institution*	*Enterprise*	*F*	*M*	*Total*
1	Napri	Poultry production	157	243	400
		Bull fattening	19	181	200
2	Federal college of agriculture and animal science, mando, kaduna	Sheep and goat	30	70	100
		Bull fattening	10	217	227
3	Federal college of animal health and production technology, fcah&pt, vom, plateau state	Sheep and goat	13	42	55
		Poultry	25	75	100
4	National agricultural research and extension liaison services (naerls)	Extension	92	219	311
5	Federal college of fresh water fisheries, new bussa	Aquaculture	16	34	50
6	Federal college of animal health and production technology, fcah&pt, ibadan	Sheep and goat	33	54	87
		Poultry	24	68	92

		List of trainees disaggregated by sex			
Sn	*Institution*	*Enterprise*	*F*	*M*	*Total*
7	Aquaculture training for 6 geopolitical zones	Aquaculture	398		398
8	National centre for agricultural mechanization (ncam), ilorin	Welding and fabrication	5	95	100
		Repair and maintenance	9	81	90
9	Cassava training for women for southern states		219		219
10	Rice processing training for nw women		278		278
11	Federal college of horticulture, d/kowa	Tomato processing for women	164		164
		Tomato processing and orchard establishment and management	99	155	254
12	Betty nnaji farms	Beekeeping and honey processing	12	28	40
13	Cassava processing nysc project	Cassava processing and packaging	15		15
14	Nysc	Cassava processing and packaging	1		1
15	Federal college of fresh water fisheries, baga, borno state	Fish farming (production and processing)	26	154	180
16	Nigerian institute for leather and science technology	Footwear manufacture and leather goods manufacture	91	103	194
17	Guild for women gender protection	Poultry	15		15
		Aquaculture	15		15
18	Fishery institute, kano	Aquaculture	140		140
19	Mr fish lkj/federal college of animal health and production technology, fcah&pt, ibadan	Aquaculture	100		100
20	Federal university of agriculture, abeokuta	Aquaculture	100		100
21	Federal university of agriculture, makurdi	Cassava	100		100
22	Federal university of agriculture, umudike	Cassava	100		100
23	National cereals research institute, badeggi	Rice	200		200
24	Institute of agricultural research, zaria	Groundnut	100		100
25	National cereals research institute, badeggi	Accha (fonio/hungry rice)	100		100
26	Poultry institute, kano	Poultry	100		100

		List of trainees disaggregated by sex			
Sn	*Institution*	*Enterprise*	*F*	*M*	*Total*
27	Federal college of animal health and production technology, fcah&pt, ibadan	Poultry	100		100
28	National animal production research institute (napri), zaria	Poultry	122	278	400
		Bull fattening	23	177	200
			3 051	2 274	5 325

Source: *Gender and Youth Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, 2013.*

Table 12.2
Beneficiaries of Long term Entrepreneurship training

2008	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*
4 028	4 366	5 049	6 043	6 254	8 702

Table 12.3
Beneficiaries of Short term Entrepreneurship training

2008	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*
18 000	58 000	68 000	40 000	4 942	7 109

Table 12.3 above reveals a gradual reduction in the number of beneficiaries of the short term training. This is because over the years many trainers have emerged from the Government organized training as such demand for the Government-owned training programme has reduced drastically.

Efforts by Corporate and Non-Governmental Organizations

12.10 Various stakeholders — States and CSOs are also embarking on projects aimed at improving the economic empowerment of women in the rural areas and thereby expanding opportunities for their self-reliance.

Access to Water

12.11 Potable water supply is a crucial area that is being addressed in communities in Nigeria. GWI water kiosks are a key example.

Table 12.6
Distribution of land ownership by sex

Sector	*Land Ownership*	
	Female	*Male*
Total	7.2	38.1
Rural	8.5	46.1
Rural poor	10.1	49.5
Urban	4.5	22.4
Urban poor	5.9	28
Zone		
North-East	4	52.2
North-West	4.7	50.1
North-Central	7.9	41.2
South-East	10.6	38.1
South-West	5.9	22.5
South-South	10.9	28.3

Source: *CWIQ (2006).*

Key Challenges

12.12 In rural areas, women's right of access to land is still regarded as secondary to that of men and many customs suggest that women's access to land is still mediated via patrilineal systems (Aluko and Amidu, 2006). Lineage membership and property relations affect access to land, social status and political office. In effect, the access of women to critical resources like land, capital and labour depends on their position in the family or community (Onwualu, 2001).

Conclusion

12.13 With the population of women in rural areas engaged in subsistence farming, there have been palpable efforts made by the Nigerian Government with development funders, CSOs to improve the well-being of women in rural areas.

Chapter 13

Article 15: Equality before the Law

Legal Framework

13.1 Predicated on the basic recitals establishing the background to the making of a common will and vision, the Constitution of Nigeria firmly resolved on the issues of equality which it embedded in the preamble:

> *"WE THE PEOPLE of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, HAVING firmly and solemnly resolved TO LIVE in unity and harmony as one indivisible and indissoluble sovereign Nation under God dedicated to the Promotion of inter-African solidarity, world peace, international co-operation and*

understanding AND TO PROVIDE for a Constitution for the purpose of promoting the good government and welfare of all persons in our country on the principles of Freedom, Equality and Justice and for the purpose of consolidating the Unity of our people:

DO HEREBY MAKE AND GIVE TO OURSELVES, the following Constitution."

13.2 Clearly evident in this preamble is the fact of equality before the law made manifest in section 17(1)(2)(a) reiterating the ideas of freedom, equality and Justice. Section 17(1)(a) provides that "every citizen shall have equality of rights, obligations and opportunities before the law". The Constitution being the ground norm of the country is supreme as shown in Section 1(3) which holds that "if any other law is inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution, this Constitution shall prevail and that other law shall to the extent of the inconsistency be null and void.

It is therefore clear that going by the provisions of the Constitution, women are equal with men before the law in either criminal or civil matters. Both women and men have equal legal capacity and the same opportunities to exercise that capacity. However, such rights are often denied under customary law or sharia law despite the fact that the section of the Constitution that provides for equality before the law did not exempt the customary law or the Sharia law.

13.3 Sharia Law which operates in the Northern part of Nigeria made provisions using the Islamic Law as the benchmark which allows equal access to the courts of law for legal redress. In practice however, treatments of parties are not the same. Under the evidential rules, the evidence of one male is equal to the evidence of two females who must corroborate. In the offence of *Zinna* (adultery) it requires three males' unimpeachable evidence to find a male guilty of *Zinna* but the fact of pregnancy is enough to proclaim a female guilty of *Zinna when she fails to produce the male partner*. What this translates to is that it may be difficult to find a male guilty of *zinna* for it is unnatural to invite three other persons to watch adultery being committed.

13.4 Apart from Sharia law, the Supreme Court has also been able to enforce the provision of the Constitution in relation to the repugnancy test rule. In the case of **Onyibor Anekwe and Anor v. Mrs. Maria Nweke**, the Supreme Court held that Nigerian customs, which disinherit women are repugnant to natural justice, equity and good conscience and should therefore not be allowed to stand. The court therefore declared as repulsive the custom of the Awka people in Anambra State which allows married women to be disinherited upon the death of their husband because they did not have a male child for the late husband. A widow, Mrs. Maria Nweke, had in 1991 instituted a case at the Awka Division of the Anambra State High Court. This is a landmark decision that is bound to contribute rapidly to the enjoyment of the right to equality before the law between women and men in Nigeria especially as it concerns obnoxious customary laws.

13.5 Other laws that deny women the enjoyment of the right to equality before the law include section 55 of the Penal Code which permits a husband to reasonably chastise his wife in a bid to correct her; section 29(3)(4)(b) of the 1999 Constitution which provides that for the purpose of exercising the right to citizenship, any woman who is married shall be deemed to be of full age and therefore be able to

exercise such, which otherwise is the reserve of adults. The FMWASD and women's rights advocates have submitted memoranda to the National Assembly and the on-going National Conference calling for the repeal of this section of the law. It is believed that the on-going constitutional review process will repeal the section.

Policy Framework

13.6 The incorporation of National Gender Policy, which was adopted in 2006 clearly exhibited the Government's commitment to be viewed not as trying to underscore its objective, but actually doing so in practical terms. The policy is currently being revised to be better responsive in promoting gender equality in Nigeria.

Other Measures to Enhance Equality before the Law

13.7 In addition to measures already highlighted in the sixth Periodic Report, the following are fresh initiatives that have trailed the blaze of Equality before the law in Nigeria:

13.8 The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) developed a Gender Policy (2014) which is aimed at bridging the ever increasing gender gaps and promoting mutual partnerships between men and women in the operations of the Commission, its relation with relevant stakeholders and promoting gender sensitive practices among political parties.

13.9 The Nigerian Police Force also developed a Gender Policy in 2010 to eliminate all gender-based discriminatory regulations and practices within the Nigeria Police Force, and ensure that the Police Force, as a major security organ of Government is able to effectively deal with gender-based violence within the larger Nigeria society.

13.10 Others include the following:

- Nigeria Labour Congress Gender Policy, 2010;
- Nigerian Defence Academy Policy for Equality, 2012;
- National Agency for Food Drug and Administration of Nigeria (NAFDAC) Gender Policy, 2014 and many more.

13.11 There are many Equal Opportunity Bills before the different Houses of Assembly. The following states have passed it into law — Imo state, Anambra state (passed twice but governor did not sign before leaving office), Kogi state (passed awaiting the governor's consent), Ekiti State passed and signed.

13.12 Translation of the CEDAW provisions and Protocol to African Charter on Human and Peoples' rights on the Rights of Women in Africa into local languages: Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba by Government and by Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA) Nigeria with support from OXFAM GB and DFID. CIRDDOC has produced simplified and illustrated versions of CEDAW with support from OSIWA and Voices for Change.

Challenges

13.13 In addition to the obstacles isolated in the sixth periodic report, the following obstacles make women's access to justice a tall order:

- National Women Machinery is underfunded to run these polices.
- Social opprobrium/ridicule faced by most women from their community members for daring to take a person particularly, a man to court.
- High propensity to stop prosecution half way for fear of the unknown either from the immediate family, larger society or even the courts.
- For crime prosecutions, the problems of police shenanigans, and idiosyncrasies mystify the entire Criminal Procedure Jurisprudence.

Chapter 14

Article 16: Equality in Marriage and Family

Tripartite Legal System and its Troublesome Imports

14.1 The factum of marriage confers some basic rights to the spouses such as right to consortium (right to change of name, defence to life and limb, right to cohabitation and right to sexual intercourse).

14.2 Previous reports have discussed the problems occasioned by this tripartite legal system of civil, customary and religious laws dealing with forms of marriages manifesting in age of marriage, inheritance rights, consent of parties and parental consent, divorce (civil and customary forms of divorce), widowhood practices, polygamy and health implications, female genital mutilation and its affront to right to health and sexuality as well as discrimination on grounds of sex.

14.3 The different forms of marriages celebrated in Nigeria have attracted specific attention and action as the Nigerian Law Reform Commission (NLRC) has been given a special task to harmonize these laws as well as other offensive provisions stated hereunder.

- Section 55(i)(d) — Penal Code of Northern Nigeria
- Section 282 — Penal Code of Northern Nigeria
- Section 221 of the Criminal Code Act
- Section 353 of the Criminal Code Act
- Section 360 of the Criminal Code Act
- Section 6 of the Criminal Code Act on Marital Rape
- Section 1 Criminal Code Act
- Section 16(2)(c) of Matrimonial Causes Act on proof of conviction before cruelty is established
- Section 29(3) of the 1999 Constitution on Renunciation of Citizenship and the presumption that any married female child assumes the status of an adult
- Section 26(2) of the 1999 Constitution
- Guiding principles and formulae for the Distribution of all Cadres of Posts, Federal Character Commission (Establishment etc.) Decree (1996 No 34) on Indigene-ship

- Police Regulation 112
- Section 33, Cap C. 38 Criminal Code Act LFN 2004 — Criminal Liability attaching to women married under customary Law and the Act
- Non-conferment of citizenship to a foreign husband of a Nigerian woman

14.4 Towards this assignment, NLRC has taken concrete steps towards the reformation of all the offensive laws which have been pencilled down for repeal or outright extraction. A draft model Customary Law and Islamic Law Marriage/ Divorce Registration Law which seeks to provide for the mandatory registration of all marriages contracted within the state has been developed and placed before the National Assembly for the passage into law.

14.5 The New Evidence Act of Nigeria in its Section 14(3) stated clearly that any customary law sought to be applied but fails the test of repugnancy, compatibility and public policy test should be cast away and declared null and void and of no effect. In concrete terms, the Amended Evidence Act, 2011 has reformed some sections to be in tandem with accepted non-discriminatory benchmarks.

Decided Court Cases in Support of Equality in Marriage

14.6 The Nigeria Bench is not left out as activist pronouncement and cutting down of customs that held women down are declared. The Supreme Court of Nigeria has taken the violation of women's right as a special project which is evidenced in the number of judgments cutting down obnoxious customary practices against women.

14.7 Justice Bode Rhodes Vivour of the Supreme Court of Nigeria in April 2014, in the case of **Lois Chituru Ukeje vs Mrs Gladys Ada Ukeje,** wife and daughter of Mr. Lazarus Ukeje declared thus:

> *"...no matter the circumstances of the birth of a female child, such a child is entitled to an inheritance from her late father's estate. Consequently, the Igbo customary law which disentitles a female child from partaking in the sharing of his deceased father's estate is a breach of section 42(1)(2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, a fundamental Rights provision guaranteed to every Nigerian. This said discriminatory law is void as it conflicts with section 42(1)(2) of the said Constitution. In the light of what I have been saying, the appeal is dismissed"*

14.8 In April 2014, the Supreme Court nullified a custom that disinherited women as repugnant to natural justice, equity and good conscience in the case of **Mrs. Maria Nweke vs Onyibor Anekwe and Anor**. The claim was for a declaration for the right of occupancy over a parcel of land where the Plaintiff lived with her husband until his death. The Defendants were disinheriting the Plaintiff because she had only female children for her late husband. Justice Ogunbiyi did not hesitate to make this pronouncement:

> *"I hasten to add that the custom and practice of Awka people upon which the appellants have relied is hereby out rightly condemned in very strong terms. A custom of this nature in the 21st century societal setting will only tend to depict the absence of the relatives of human civilization. It is punitive, uncivilized and only intended to protect the selfish perpetration of male dominance which is aimed at suppressing the right of the women folk in the*

given society. One would expect that the days of such obvious differential discrimination are over. Any custom that disinherits a daughter from her father's estate or wife from her husband's property by reason of God's instituted gender differential should be punitively dealt with. The punishment should serve as a deterrent measure and ought to be meted out against the perpetrators of the culture and custom. For a widow of a man to be thrown out of her matrimonial home where she had lived all her life with her late husband and children by her late husband's brother on the ground that she had no male child is indeed very barbaric, worrying and flesh skinning".

14.10 Also the Court of Appeal in **Asika vs Atuanya (2008) 17 NWLR (Pt 1117) at 484** struck down the custom that portends to demean a woman merely because she is a person of feminine gender and declared such customary practices as unconstitutional.

14.11 Pathetic situations witnessed in **Shodipo v Shodipo (1990) WRN 98** where the court refused to consider the wife's contribution to the 43-year old marriage and just awarded a lump sum of N200,000 equivalent of (1,800) U.S. Dollars to her, which was considered exceptionally discriminatory are now giving way to broader interpretation of 50-50 equitable distribution of marital property upon divorce. Both visible and invisible contributions of spouses must be taken into account before arriving at such decisions. This also extends to decisions in maintenance and custody of children which must be guided by overriding interest of the child. The following cases decided in Nigerian Courts within this reporting period will clearly strengthen the judicial bent.

14.12 In **LT. Adeyinka A Bibilari vs Ngozika B Aneke Bibilari** — (2011) 13 NWLR (PT 1264) p. 207 intolerable behaviour was condemned by the courts. Also in **Motoh v Motoh** (2011) 16 NWLR (Pt 1274) 431-631, the court drew distinction between forms of marriages in Nigeria and the rights attendant to such marriage and held that photographs are clear proof of celebration of marriage.

14.13 Clearly the Matrimonial Causes Act did not make cruelty a ground for divorce but by extension, Section 15(2)(c) which authorizes an aggrieved spouse to petition for divorce on the ground that the conduct of the Respondent is reprehensible allows such cruelty to occasion divorce. Such cruelty could be physical, emotional (psychological) and economic. In **Bibilari vs Bibilari** (2011)(**supra**) the court held that cruelty, though not specifically made a ground for divorce under Section 15(2) of MCA, a court can hold that a marriage has broken down irretrievably on the ground that one of the spouses has been cruel to the other.

14.14 Marital rape, which is not a crime in Nigerian jurisprudence by reason of Section 6 of the Criminal Code Act, is now being given extensive interpretation by the courts that a rapist must be declared as one even in matrimony.

14.15 The ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa by Nigeria secured its obligation to fulfil all conditions therein stated. Towards this, the country is building on the CEDAW Bill which is an executive bill before the Parliament for parliamentary procedures.